
THE PEARL OF
GREAT PRICE
AND THE
NAMES OF TRIBES
ON
GATES OF PEARL

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“ . . .the kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant man, seeking goodly pearls: who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it.”

Matthew 13:45-46

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FOREWORD

In this book, I have combined messages written by Rev. Leland Earls, together with those on this same topic by Gordon Wolcott and Mikkel Dahl. Since the various writings were not authored by the same person or at the same time, the reader could notice a lack of continuity which would be found in a book written by one author with a particular design in mind. However, I have attempted to see that the subject of the Pearl of Great Price and the Twelve Tribes of Israel is sufficiently covered so as to present a comprehensible overview of these concepts.

Significant insights into Biblical patterns are revealed in this book as the reader is shown the correspondence between the 7 parables of *Matthew 13*, the 7 Feasts of Israel and the 7 Churches mentioned in *Revelation 2* and *3*. Then, many wonderful “gems” are presented as the Tribes of Israel are scrutinized. I believe this book will become a favorite for many students of Truth and the Bible.

— Jon R. Welker



"And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, Having the glory of God: and her light was like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal; And had a wall great and high, and had twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and names written thereon, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel: On the east three gates; on the north three gates; on the south three gates; and on the west three gates."

Revelation 21:10-13

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"I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed."

Genesis 12:2-3

CHAPTER 1

THE PEARL OF GREAT PRICE

Matthew 13:45-46 records one of the kingdom parables of Jesus as follows:

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant man, seeking goodly pearls: who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it.”

This was the 6th of a series of parables recorded in *Matthew 13*. The 7th, in *verses 47-50*, has to do with a net cast into the sea gathering a great catch of fish. I believe these 7 parables picture the course of this age, and thus the 7th, and last, would picture the final great harvest of souls which is to be gathered from the “sea” of humanity before this age closes. If this is true, then the 6th parable, which deals with the pearl of great price, chronologically pictures something which the Lord is doing NOW, just before the Gospel “net” brings in the last great harvest of this age.

It is this 6th parable that I want to deal with in this chapter. But first, so that you may get a better grasp of the progress of God’s plan through this age, I will list the 7 parables of *Matthew 13*, and also show that they have a correspondence to the 7 Feasts or Festivals of the Lord and the 7 churches in *Revelation 2* and *3*.

7 PARABLES

OF

Matthew 13:11-50

1. THE SOWER
2. THE WHEAT AND TARES
3. THE MUSTARD SEED
4. THE LEAVEN IN THE MEAL
5. THE HID TREASURE
6. THE PEARL OF GREAT PRICE
7. THE NET IN THE SEA

7 Churches

OF

Revelation 2 & 3

1. EPHEBUS
2. SMYRNA
3. PERGAMOS
4. THYATIRA
5. SARDIS
6. PHILADELPHIA
7. LAODICEA

7 FEASTS

OF

Leviticus 23:10-44

1. PASSOVER
2. UNLEAVENED BREAD
3. FIRSTFRUITS WAVE SHEAF
4. PENTECOST
5. TRUMPETS
6. DAY OF ATONEMENT
7. TABERNACLES

THE PEARL OF GREAT PRICE

I cannot take the time in this study to detail the parallels in each of the 3 sets of 7s as they show the progress of God's plan down through this age. But just for example, in the first parable in *Matthew 13:1-8*, the sower sows the seed (Word of God) on different types of soils (hearts). This pictures the beginning of this age when Jesus, and later the Apostles, sowed the Gospel seed. This corresponds in the Feasts of the Lord to the first Feast, which is Passover, speaking to us of the Word of salvation through the blood of Jesus. Ephesus, being the first of the churches, also speaks to us of the Apostolic church, or beginning of this age when the Gospel seed was first preached.

To illustrate further, notice the 7th in each set. I have already mentioned that the net cast into the sea speaks of the last great revival and ingathering of this age. The 7th Feast is that of Tabernacles, which took place at the close of the harvest season when the final crops and vintage were gathered in, and is also called in the Scriptures the Feast of Ingathering (*Ex. 23:16*). Ordinarily, when reading of this church, we see only the lukewarm condition of apostate Christianity which is to be so prevalent at the close of this age. But notice that right in the midst of this letter are the Lord's indications of a final great harvest during the time of the Great Tribulation. Why do I say this? First, the Lord says that He will spue this church out of His mouth (*Rev. 3:16*). But spued out where? Right into the Great Tribulation! Now notice in *Revelation 3:20* that Jesus says to this church in the midst of the Tribulation:

"Behold, I stand at the door and knock: if any man hear My voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with Me."

What a glorious hope and opportunity! We might parallel this passage of Jesus at the door, knocking, with *Matthew 24:33* which declares that when certain Tribulation conditions come to pass: *"So likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that He is near, even at the doors (knocking!)."* Multitudes will "hear His voice" in those days and invite Him

THE PEARL OF GREAT PRICE

to come in, for the greatest revival in history will be in progress.

Notice further the words of Jesus to the Laodicean church in *Revelation 3:18*:

"I counsel thee to buy of Me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see."

In relation to the Lord, the only thing people have to "buy" with is themselves, and the above Scripture shows not only what will be available to "buy" during that Great Tribulation, but also the "mentality" of vast numbers of previously lukewarm Christians at that time. Nothing else will matter but "selling themselves out totally" to the Lord with a devotion that will approach a "mania" – in order to "buy" as quickly as possible and get ready for the Lord to translate them at the close of the Tribulation. Their diligent seeking of the Lord will enable them to "*buy*" *"gold (Divine life and character) tried in the fire."* The "fire" here is a reference to the "fiery tribulation" that will be going on at that time. They will receive "*eyesalve*" (the ointment of the Holy Spirit) to open their eyes which had been blinded by their traditions and lukewarmness, and also "*white raiment*" that the "*shame*" of their "*nakedness*" does not appear. This last statement is extremely important, and I will tell you what it means later in this chapter.

Now, let us look to the 6th parable quoted at the beginning of this chapter. I believe that the "merchant man" seeking goodly pearls is none other than the Lord Jesus Himself. What, then, is the pearl which He sells all to buy? In the 5th parable (*Matt. 13:44*) a man (Jesus) buys a "field" for the sake of a treasure in it. We know that the "field" is the world (*Matt. 13:38*), which Jesus purchased by His death on the Cross, that He might have a "treasure." God told Israel that they would be a "*peculiar treasure*" unto Him above all people, and we

know that the same is said of New Covenant Israel – the people of faith (see *Ex. 19:5, 1 Pet. 2:9*). But there is something else which Jesus is seeking, and which He gave His all for (and continues to give Himself for), that PEARL of great price, which I believe is a body of overcomers OUT OF the rest of His people (treasure). Those who know their Bibles know that special promises are given to the overcomers, because they are the ones who will inherit the upper or heavenly part of the coming Kingdom in contrast to all other Christians who must be resurrected back to this earth (more on this later). They are the ones who shall live in intimate association with Jesus as His Bride and Household in glorified bodies like unto His, and because of this a special work must be done in them. This is where the PEARL comes in. What a beautiful picture of “overcoming” the pearl is.

Before writing further about the PEARL, I want to share some related Scriptures. In *Revelation 21*, John describes his vision of the New Jerusalem, the Heavenly City of God. Notice carefully what he says in *Revelation 21:21*:

“And the twelve gates were twelve PEARLS; every several gate was of one pearl.” WHY is each gate a pearl? Is this not literally shouting at us that only those who become, as it were, a “little pearl” in God’s sight will enter that city? God is showing us that He must do a work in us, symbolized by the making of a pearl, before we are ready to enter that city. For further confirming evidence, let us now turn to the 6th church and see the correspondence with the 6th parable we are considering.

The 6th church is Philadelphia, which is the most pure and faithful of all of the 7 churches. Jesus found no fault with it, neither did He command it to repent of anything. Now notice carefully the special promise to the overcomers of the Philadelphia church, because it “ties in” with the overcomers and the New Jerusalem.

“Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon

him the Name of My God, and the name of the city of My God, which is New Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from My God: and I will write upon him My new Name."

Revelation 3:12

The "writing" of these names on the overcomers would indicate their readiness for a new potential and destiny, linked with their "reigning" with Christ in the Heavenly City, the New Jerusalem.

I will now link these truths of the 6th parable and the 6th church with the 6th Feast of the Lord. That Feast was the Day of Atonement, which was on the 10th day of the 7th month, according to the Jewish calendar. The Day of Atonement was the one day in the year that the High Priest, with the sacrificial blood, entered the Holy of Holies in the Tabernacle to "make atonement" for the sins of the people. You can read the details in *Leviticus 16*. I will not here go into all those details, but simply relate the main points to our study. We know that the one primary fulfillment of the Day of Atonement was when Jesus, our High Priest, entered into the Holy of Holies in Heaven with His own blood (*Heb. 9:12*). But I also believe that the Old Testament High Priest, as he entered the Holy of Holies on the Day of Atonement, represents in type an overcoming BODY of Christians (of which Christ is the Head), who shall enter into the very Presence of the Father in Heaven, and then, during the Millennial Kingdom of Christ, also share the Throne and glory of God and the Lamb in the heavenly New Jerusalem. They will be a part of the Melchizedek priesthood, the Melchizedek who (as a type of Christ) was both a King and Priest (*Heb. 7:1-2*), and these overcomers will reign as kings and priests with Christ (*Rev. 1:6, 5:10*) over the earth.

Now I want you to notice something very carefully. The Holy of Holies in the Tabernacle was a 10 x 10 x 10 or a perfect CUBE. Look now at *Revelation 21:16* and you will see that the New Jerusalem is also equal in length and breadth and height – also a perfect CUBE. Therefore, the Holy of

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Holies of the Tabernacle was actually a miniature TYPE of the coming New Jerusalem. In the Holy of Holies were the Ark of the Covenant and the Shekinah Glory cloud. And God, Who was King in Israel, is pictured in the Old Testament as “reigning” from His dwelling place and “throne” between the cherubim in that Holy of Holies (see *Ps. 99:1, 80:1*, etc.). Even so do we see the New Jerusalem, and within, the Ark (Jesus, the Lamb), the Glory, and the Throne of God (*Rev. 21:22-23; 22:1,3*). The Day of Atonement was the one day of the year that the children of Israel were commanded to “afflict their souls” with fasting, repentance and humility as the High Priest prepared to enter the Holy of Holies wearing his pure white *linen* garments (*Lev. 16:29-34*). So the day itself speaks to us of cleansing, purifying and preparation. Even so must there be that inner cleansing, purifying and preparation in every one of the overcomers who are to enter the heavenly New Jerusalem. Also, we must be clothed, as was the High Priest, with the “linen of righteousness.” This is confirmed by *Revelation 19:8*.

In my booklet on *PREPARATION FOR THE LORD’S COMING* [available from *Shepherdsfield Publishers*], I show the difference between the imputed righteousness of Christ, whereby we are accepted IN Christ, and the imparted righteousness of Christ, which prepares us to be presented TO Christ. The *latter* is the “linen garment.”

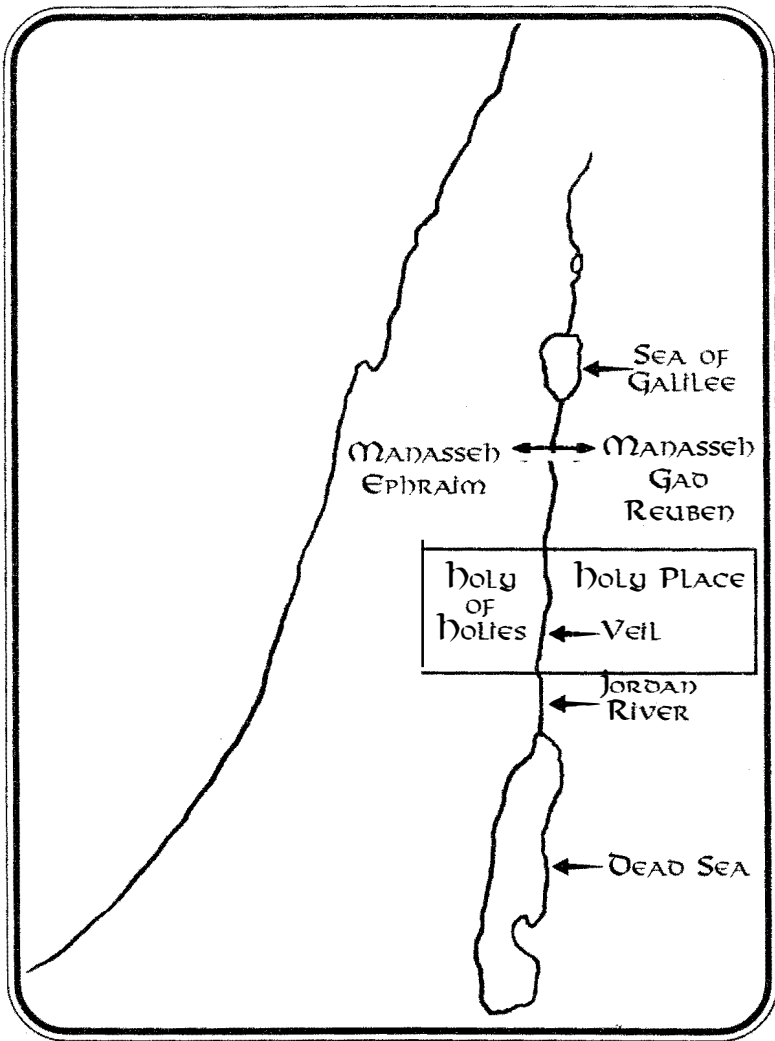
At this point I believe I must further digress to clarify some other matters. This is beyond what I had originally intended for this chapter, but I trust it will help you to get a more complete picture. Very few Christians realize that the coming Kingdom, to be established when Jesus comes, is to have TWO manifestations – the upper and the lower; or, the heavenly and the earthly. This is pictured in *Zechariah 14:4* by the fact that when Jesus’ feet touch the Mount of Olives (a type of the Kingdom of God), that mountain is split in TWO. It is also pictured by the TWIN sons of Rebekah, the wife of Isaac (Isaac being a type of Christ), who were Esau and Jacob. This will be amplified later. The truth of the two is also given to us in

type by the TWO parts of the Tabernacle proper, and the TWO parts of the Promised Land of Canaan (east side and west side). I have chosen to illustrate these latter two types by a drawing on the next page.

The Jordan River separated the two parts of the Promised Land, and a Veil separated the two compartments of the Tabernacle. I have superimposed the drawing of the Tabernacle onto that of the Promised Land, with the Jordan River flowing through where the Veil was in the Tabernacle, showing that the two correspond in type. The Holy of Holies is in the west part of Canaan, and the Holy Place in the east side. Thus, the west portrays the Heavenly Kingdom and the east the Earthly Kingdom. For the purpose of illustration, I have listed the 3 tribes which had their inheritance on the east side, but only the 2 birthright tribes on the west side.

To better understand the 2 Kingdoms, I will now make some brief explanations of the typical significance of the separating Veil and the Jordan River. First the Veil. According to **Hebrews 10:20**, the Veil corresponds to Jesus' *flesh* (body). When Jesus died on the Cross, the Veil in the Temple was "*rent in twain*" (**Matt. 27:51**). The shedding of His blood as the perfect sacrifice, when His flesh was torn, provided the *legal ground* for access into the Holy of Holies. By faith, any Christian can go directly to God "*by the blood of Jesus*" (**Heb. 10:19**). However, this is just the beginning. Those who factually enter the "Holiest" where the Presence and Throne of God are, and also "reign" with Christ in the New Jerusalem, must follow the same pattern that Jesus set. According to **Hebrews 6:19-20**, Jesus entered "*within the veil*" as a "forerunner." This means one who goes ahead as an example and pattern, and as one who prepared the way.

It must be kept in mind that Jesus entered "within the veil" as a glorified MAN, in a glorified physical body. He is the "pattern Son" for all who would follow Him into that same glory. **Hebrews 2:10** declares that He purposes to bring "*many sons unto glory*." The Hebrew word for "son" here is *huio*s, which means one who has reached a measure of maturity,



not spiritual babes and children (which are designated by other Greek words). We must be willing to grow spiritually (see *Heb. 6:1*) as He did; not in the sense of the absolute perfection which He manifested, for He was the Divine Son of God as well as being a human: but after the *example* that He set as the *pattern son*. We must be willing to “overcome” as He overcame (*Rev. 3:21*). If we are going to “follow Him” INTO the Heavenly glory, receiving a glorified body like His,

then we must fulfill the conditions He set down in *Luke 14:25-33* and *Matthew 10:37-38*; otherwise, He said that we are *not worthy* of Him (to dwell in His immediate Presence). Paul understood this, and that's why he declares in *Philippians 3:8* and *14*:

"I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them as dung, that I may WIN Christ.... I press toward the mark for the PRIZE of the high (heavenly) calling of God in Christ Jesus."

There are numerous Scriptures which show that after we are saved, we enter a "*race*" for the "*prize*" which is the "*CROWN of Life*" (for examples see *I Cor. 9:24-27*, *Heb. 12:1*, *Jms. 1:12*, *Rev. 2:10*). I will not elaborate further on this now, but in brief summary, let me say here that the GIFT of eternal life (*Rom. 6:23*) is simply the lifting of the death penalty and the restoration of what Adam lost in the garden of Eden when he sinned. Adam was on earth, not in heaven, when he sinned and forfeited deathless life. Jesus declares in *Matthew 22:14* that "*many are called* (to gain the heavenly prize), *but few are chosen.*" The Greek word translated "chosen" in this passage is also translated "elect" and "election" in other passages in the New Testament. "Election" has nothing to do with salvation for in salvation it is "whosoever will may come" (*Rev. 22:17*). Election has to do with God's purpose to "raise up" an overcoming company *out* of the earthly into the heavenly, to function in glorified bodies like unto Jesus' glorified body. Peter tells us that we must "*give diligence to make our calling and election sure*" (*II Pet. 1:10*). *Revelation 17:14* states that those who are WITH Jesus are the "*called, and chosen* (elect), *and faithful.*"

Whenever Paul uses such expressions as "we" and "our," the casual reader thinks that he is referring to all Christians. For example, take Paul's words in *Philippians 3:20-21*:

"For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto His glorious body...."

If you want to know who Paul is talking about in these verses, then read carefully the entire chapter of *Philippians 3*. Notice the conditions Paul lays down. This promise of having “our” bodies changed into the likeness of His glorious body is clearly for those who are “*pressing toward the mark for the PRIZE of the High (heavenly) calling of God in Christ Jesus*” (*Phil. 3:14*). Those who fall short of this “calling” will simply be *resurrected back* to this earth, to live in deathless physical bodies for at least a thousand years. Sometime after the Millennium they will have the opportunity to have their bodies translated and glorified. But to the “overcomer,” the Lord makes this promise in *Revelation 3:12*: “*Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the Temple of My God, and he shall go no more out.*” That last expression, “go no more out,” simply means that the overcomer does not have to come back to the earth to live any more. For such, the earth schooling is finished.

Those who must come back and inherit the earthly Kingdom are typified by the priests who ministered in the Holy Place. Take a look at the diagram on page 15 and note that the Holy Place corresponds to the *east* side of Jordan. I cannot take time here to describe their ministry in the Holy Place, but let me point out that only those *born* into the family of Aaron could minister as priests. Thus, the priests picture, by type, the “born-again” Christians who have come into the family of God through the new birth (*Jn. 3:3*), and are priests unto God (*I Pet. 2:9*). But the priests of the Holy Place were never permitted to go “beyond the veil” – that prerogative was for the High Priest alone. This shows us again that *just* being “born again” (saved) does not *in itself* qualify one for the Heavenly Kingdom beyond the veil. Before this book is finished, I want to once again focus attention on the High Priest as a type of the “overcomers” who shall inherit the upper or Heavenly Kingdom, and add some further insights which I believe will be helpful.

Now let’s take a look at the Jordan River and its symbolism. You will notice on the diagram that the Jordan River

corresponds to the separating veil in the Tabernacle. The Jordan River separated the 2 sections of the Promised Land. The word "Jordan" means '*descender*', and is a type of death. When Jesus was ready to begin His ministry, He demonstrated (by symbolism) His willingness and purpose to go to death upon the Cross by being *immersed* in the Jordan River. He declared His intent at that time to "fulfill all righteousness" – that is, He would fulfill all the righteous demands of the Law of God, including the taking upon Himself the penalty of that broken Law by a vicarious death for all mankind (*Matt. 3:13-15*).

Turn to the *Book of Joshua* and notice how this was portrayed by type when the Israelites were preparing to cross the Jordan River. Read *Joshua 3:11-17*. The priests carrying the ARK went first. The ARK is a type of Christ. The priests carrying the Ark had to actually walk INTO the waters of Jordan. This is a *type* of Christ, Who "walked" purposely INTO death for us. But note, when the feet of the priests rested IN the waters, the waters of Jordan were CUT OFF (*3:13, 15-16*). This pictures the truth that when Jesus died on the Cross as our substitute, the "great descender" (death) was "cut off" or abolished (*II Tim. 1:10*). The Israelites were then able to cross Jordan on dry ground (*Josh. 3:17*). Crossing Jordan on "dry ground" symbolizes those who will have their bodies translated and glorified without the experience of death. "*...Changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye,*" as Paul states in *I Corinthians 15:51-52*. Thus we can see that this crossing Jordan INTO Canaan's west side is, by type, the same as going BEYOND THE VEIL into the Holy of Holies.

Those "overcomers" who have died down through this age, however, obviously cannot be translated without experiencing death. Their entrance into the Heavenly Kingdom will come through resurrection. Actually, to them it will be a resurrection PLUS, for their bodies will be *glorified*. The Greek word *anastasis* simply means a '*re*-standing (or standing up again)' upon this earth, and of itself does not necessarily imply a glorified body; for we know that many will be resurrected

back to this earth to live in deathless physical bodies. But just as Jesus' body was both resurrected *and* glorified, so will be the lot of the "overcomers" who have died down through this age.

This truth is typified in *Joshua chapter 4*, where we read that Joshua commanded the Israelites to take 12 stones *out* of the Jordan to set up as a memorial on the west bank, and also to take 12 other stones and place them in the Jordan in the place where the feet of the priests had stood. Here we have a picture of *death* and *resurrection*. The stones placed in the bed of Jordan would be covered by the waters when they were released, speaking to us of the "living stones" (saints) who have died. But the stones taken **OUT OF** Jordan and placed as a memorial on the west bank speak to us of those same saints who will be resurrected and glorified to enter the Heavenly Kingdom when Jesus returns to set up His Kingdom. *Joshua 4:7* states that the stones taken out of Jordan were to be a perpetual memorial to the children of Israel that "*the waters of Jordan were cut off before the Ark of the Covenant of the Lord when it passed over Jordan.*" Yes, beloved, when the resurrection takes place, what a "living memorial" it will be to the fact that the "*waters of Jordan*" (death) were truly "*cut off*" when our ARK (Jesus) died on the Cross. The waters of *Jordan* being "*cut off*," that a *WAY* into the West of Canaan might be opened, corresponds exactly to the *Veil* in the Temple being "*rent*" that a *WAY* into the Holy of Holies might be opened.

One might ask the question: "But are not the saved who have died now in heaven?" Yes, but that "heaven" is *far* from being in the very Presence of God "beyond the veil"; neither is it the full-fledged Kingdom of Christ which is yet to come. To come into the very Presence of the great KING, and even to live in His Presence in the coming New Jerusalem, we must be *properly dressed*. This requires that "vestment" we have referred to as the glorified body; it is the "wedding garment" referred to in *Matthew 22:11*. Those now in that "heaven," which the New Testament refers to as *Paradise*, are functioning in the "underwear" of their *soul*-bodies, having lost the

outer vestment or garment of the physical body through death. They are waiting for the *completion* of their redemption, even the restoration (resurrection) to them of their outer garment – the physical body (*Rom. 3:23, Eph. 1:14*). But Paul reminds us in *I Corinthians 15:40-41* that there are different kinds of bodies: some celestial (heavenly) and some terrestrial (earthly); so will be the resurrection. According to *Revelation 6:9*, those in Paradise are “*under the altar*” (the sheltering of the blood of Jesus).

According to the pattern given by God to Moses, the Altar of Sacrifice was in the Outer Court – not in the Holy Place or Holy of Holies. Not until *Revelation 15:5* is the *Temple* where God dwells opened, and in *15:2* we see glorified saints ready to enter; whereas *15:8* says that they *cannot* enter *until* the vials of wrath are poured out on the earth. By *that* time the Tribulation will be virtually over, and the great Harvest company taken *before* the vials of wrath are poured out, as well as the Firstfruits taken before the Tribulation, will be “attired” in their glorified vestments (bodies), ready to enter on the very Day of Atonement, which will be on the 10th day of the 7th month (Tishri) of the Hebrew calendar (in the *fall* of our year).

One more thought concerning those in Paradise. The word “Paradise” is a Persian word meaning ‘garden’, and it referred to the *outer* garden realms outside the Palace of the King, and outside the inner courtyard around the palace. This is in harmony with the *Revelation 6:9* passage where the saints are seen “*under the altar*” in the Outer Court. Paradise is actually the *soul’s counterpart* to the earthly “garden” (paradise) lost by Adam and Eve on earth. Most in paradise will actually be resurrected back to long enjoy the “paradise” conditions on this earth when the Kingdom is established at Christ’s return and shortly thereafter.

This brings me to a related matter that I may as well touch on while I am on the subject. *Hebrews 9:7-8* relates a truth concerning the Tabernacle of Moses and pattern-rites which I want to comment on:

“But into the second (Holy of Holies) went the High Priest alone once every year, not without blood, which he offered for himself, and for the errors of the people: the Holy Spirit this signifying, that the way into the Holiest (Holy of Holies) of all was not made manifest, while the first Tabernacle was yet standing....”

This Scripture boldly declares to us that to the Old Testament saints under the Mosaic Law, the way into the Heavenly Kingdom was NOT OPEN to them. The High Priest merely acted out what WOULD be made available in the future. In other words, there was no promise made to the Old Testament saints that they would be in the Heavenly Kingdom. They were taught and expected to be resurrected back to this earth to once again inherit the LAND promised to them. This is too vast a subject to go into detail here.

Hebrews 11:8 tells us that Abraham obeyed God and went to a land that he “*should after receive for an inheritance.*” Yet he, and Isaac and Jacob after him, were merely sojourners and strangers in that land, having died before the land became theirs as a possession (*Heb. 11:13*). *Romans 4:13* says that Abraham received a promise that he should be the “*heir of the world.*” *Luke 13:28-29* says that many shall come from the east and west, and shall sit down with Abraham and Isaac and Jacob in the Kingdom of God. *Verse 29* also mentions “north” and “south” which I omitted, yet all of these directions speak of earth conditions. Because Abraham was a “friend of God” and because of his great faith, I do believe that God gave him a glimpse of what he would inherit even beyond his restoration to the Promised Land in the earthly Kingdom (*Heb. 11:16*), but it is a matter of God’s timing. After they enjoy the inheritance God promised them, for a thousand years or more, THEN they will have their bodies glorified and enter the Celestial City.

If this perspective is true, then *Matthew 11:11* can be easily understood:

“Verily I say unto you, Among them that are born of women there hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist: notwith-

standing he that is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

Having died before Jesus opened up a "*new and living way*" (*Heb. 10:20*) on the Cross, John the Baptist must be resurrected back to this earth. Yet the least, functioning in a glorified body in the Heavenly Kingdom, will obviously be greater than John who will be functioning on this earth in a deathless physical body.

When we understand the truth of both the heavenly and earthly Kingdoms, then all Scriptures become plain, intelligible and harmonious, each contributing in the declaration of God's truth, love and righteousness. We have no right to pick Scripture here and there – whatever appeals to the soul, and affirm that THAT applies to us (or self), *unless* there is proper justification for doing so. We need to be "*rightly dividing*" (*II Tim. 2:15*) the Word of Truth, knowing who is speaking and to whom, what promises are given and for what purpose, and in what dispensation. For example, the Scriptures declare that during the coming Millennium, Jesus will be absolute King over the earth, having destroyed all rebellion and opposition.

But many have assumed that Jesus will be sitting on some literal throne in the literal city of Jerusalem. Yet *Revelation 22:3* clearly states that the Throne of the Lamb will be in the Heavenly City, the New Jerusalem, which will come down and be stationed somewhere in our upper atmosphere. Moreover, Jesus says in *John 1:51* that at THAT time, "*Ye shall see heaven open, and the angels* (messengers) *of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man.*" The Greek word "angel" simply means 'messenger' and is applied to *humans* in Scripture, as well as the heavenly angels. The *messengers* of that day will be the *glorified saints* who will be ruling with Christ. The very fact that Jesus says they will be "*ascending* as well as *descending*," affirms clearly that Jesus will be stationed above somewhere – and that will be the Heavenly Jerusalem, from which the glorified saints will "commute" to carry out duties on this earth.

THE PEARL OF GREAT PRICE

The Scriptures declare that David will be resurrected to rule the earthly Kingdom from Jerusalem (*Jer. 30:9; Ezek. 34:23-24, 37:24-25*). The two kingdoms are seen in *Isaiah 2:3*: “For out of Zion (the Heavenly Kingdom – *Heb. 12:22; Rev. 14:1*) shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem” (the earthly Kingdom – *Zech. 14:16*). Just how the two Kingdoms will function and eventually become ONE, will have to be left to another study.

THE PEARL OF GREAT PRICE

We have seen some of the spiritual and symbolic significance of the 6th Church of Asia, and the 6th Feast of the Lord. Now I want to turn to the 6th parable of *Matthew 13*, and amplify on the PEARL of great price. Pearls come from little creatures of the ocean called oysters. We have already mentioned that the pearl is a beautiful type of the “overcomer.” The oyster is certainly not a beautiful creature on the outside, yet God has ordained a spiritual lesson for us in that on the inside of the oyster, through processes that He has ordained, something BEAUTIFUL can be formed. A pearl is actually a *right* response, a *healing* response, to an irritation – to something that HURTS. In human terms we could call it a trial, a difficult situation; something that must be OVERCOME through the GRACE of God.

The pearl oyster, usually when seeking for *food* (symbolic of those Christians who are *hungry* to *go on* with the Lord), finds that some kind of foreign substance – perhaps a grain of sand or something else, has lodged inside of it. Because of the irritation and hurt, a juice or fluid is exuded by the oyster to “coat” the foreign substance. This provides some temporary relief. But when moving around again, there may be renewed pain. Thus, another layer of coating is added. This process continues over a period of time, each layer being added and hardening into a spherical form, provides man with one of the most beautiful “jewels” when the oyster is caught and the pearl removed.

THE PEARL OF GREAT PRICE

The genuine pearl is the only gem that comes from the sea, and the only one made by a *living process*. The "sea" (water) is a type of the human *soul*, and the "living process" involved in making a pearl is a type of the living, dynamic WORK of the GRACE of God in our *inner* being by the SPIRIT of our God, producing the beautiful character qualities that will enable us to have enough of an *affinity* with the nature of Christ to be qualified to DWELL in His immediate Presence in the New Jerusalem. Remember that each *gate* of that city is a PEARL, and we cannot be admitted to that city unless God has produced something in our lives that is *akin* to the *beauty* of a pearl. Although pearls can be found anywhere in the world, even in waters that are somewhat shallow, the best quality pearls are found in the *depths* of the sea, speaking to us of a *deep* work of God in us. *Psalms 107:23-24* says:

"They that go down to the sea in ships, that do business in great waters; these see the works of the Lord, and His wonders in the deep."

Surely a pearl is one of "*His wonders in the deep*." And as God does a deeper work in us, then truly "*deep calleth unto deep at the noise of Thy waterspouts*" (*Ps. 42:7*). The appealing iridescence and the luster for which pearls are prized, are due primarily to the reflection and refraction of light on the surface of the translucent gem. Ah, beloved, the light of the New Jerusalem is the GLORY of God (*Rev. 21:23*). Can we be ready for that city unless when that glory shines upon us, there is a reflection and refraction of HIS OWN beauty and image developed within us?

A pearl cannot be produced without a certain amount of suffering in the oyster. *Hebrews 2:10* says that Jesus was made "*perfect through sufferings*." The Greek word used here is *pathema*, meaning 'something undergone, i.e. hardship or pain'. Another Greek word is used in *Hebrews 5:8*, where we read that Jesus "*learned He obedience by the things which He suffered*." The word in this passage is *pascho*, which means 'to experience a sensation or impression'. Thus it was ALL the experiences that Jesus went through which prepared or "per-

fectured" Him for His role or ministry as KING-PRIEST in the Kingdom of God. And remember, Jesus is not only our Saviour, but also the *pattern*-Son for *all* the *sons* who are to be brought to His same glory and *share* in His King-Priest ministry and rule. We are being prepared for future roles of responsibility, and the experiences of life correspond to the "irritants" that "invade" the oyster. How we respond to them is important. If we let the Spirit of God "exude" Divine grace within us, even as the oyster exudes a living substance to form a pearl, then our right and grateful response to every experience can be used of God to form the pearl-like beauty of His nature and character in us. Pearls may be rose, cream, white, bronze, brown, or pastel shades of lavender, blue, green, etc., depicting the various "hues" of the Lord's work in us by His Spirit. It is not the "irritants" (experiences) themselves that make us overcomers, but rather our drawing upon His grace – His Divine life-substance – that builds layer upon layer of pearl-like beauty in us.

We have seen in this study that the 6th parable, the 6th Feast and the 6th church all emphasize the same message: God is preparing a BODY of overcomers who shall, at the appointed time, go "beyond the veil" into the Heavenly Kingdom and Glory, having bodies like unto Christ, that they might "reign" with Him in the New Jerusalem. Throughout the New Testament, this "Hope" is set before Christians and the requirements for its attainment. For example, John tells us in *I John 3:2-3* that "every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as He (Christ) is pure." *Hebrews 6:18-20* speaks of this hope and says: "which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which entereth into that within the veil." There are numerous passages in the *Book of Hebrews* that declare the necessity of being "anchored" to Christ in steadfastness and faithfulness if we hope to be a part of His Heavenly Household (*Heb. 3:6* is just one example). As a matter of fact, almost the entire *Book of Hebrews* is a dissertation on the "*Heavenly calling*" (*Heb. 3:1*), and the warnings of "coming short" of it. Not understanding this, Bible students have usually applied these warnings to the losing of salva-

tion, but that is not the matter under consideration. After giving all of his arguments, illustrations and warnings, the writer of *Hebrews* comes to a climax in *Hebrews 12:1*,

“Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience (steadfastness) the race that is set before us.”

You don't “run” to obtain salvation, but rather for the “prize” and “crown” (*Phil. 3:14, I Cor. 9:24-25*).

Notice the warning in *Revelation 3:11* which was written to the 6th church (Philadelphia):

“Behold I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man TAKE THY CROWN.”

No man can take our salvation from us, but if we fail to give diligence to make our calling and election sure (*II Pet. 1:10*), then someone else will be chosen to take our place in the “elect BODY” which shall be “raised up” to Christ's own glory to “rule” (crowned) with Him. Speaking of the “crown,” I want to call your attention to a Scripture in *Leviticus 21:12* regarding the High Priest. We have already seen that the High Priest is a TYPE of the overcomers who shall go beyond the veil.

“Neither shall he go out of the sanctuary, nor profane the sanctuary of his God; for the CROWN of the anointing oil of his God is upon him.”

Only the High Priest had the anointing oil poured on the crown of his head. The other priests had the oil sprinkled on them (see *Lev. 8:12, 8:30*). We know that oil is a type of the Holy Spirit; and in the New Testament, the Baptism of the Holy Spirit is pictured as being “poured out” upon a person (*Acts 2:17-18, 10:45, 19:6*). On the day of Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit came upon the 120, tongues like as of fire sat upon each of them (presumably on their heads); and thus we might say “crowning” them, as they received the baptism of the Holy Spirit (oil) and fire (*Matt. 3:11*). The anointing

“oil” of the Spirit is to give power for ministry (*Lk. 4:18; Acts 10:38*), and the “fire” of the Spirit is for inner purging (*Mal. 3:2-3*), that we might be “sanctified” (separated) from our carnality, making us “fit” for His Presence (see *Matt. 5:8; Heb. 12:14*). Because Jesus was without sin, He did not need to be purged of any carnality, but as the pattern Son, He was CROWNED with the anointing of the Holy Spirit (*Matt. 3:16; Heb. 2:9*). And so must we be likewise “crowned” if we hope to be a part of His King-Priest ministry in the coming Kingdom.

Note the promise in *Revelation 3:4*,

“Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with Me in white: for they are worthy.”

This is the essence of that *Pearl* of great price for which Jesus is seeking: those who shall “walk with Him in white” in intimate association with Him, in celestial realms of *glory*, as His Heavenly Bride and Household. But notice the stated pre-condition: “which have *not defiled* their garments.” The “garments” referred to here are the inner soul garments. As pointed out in the previous paragraph, the soul must be purged and purified of its innate carnality (*I Pet. 1:22; Titus 2:14*); then those garments must not be “defiled”: that is, not gotten dirty or soiled. The apostle James says that “pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is...to keep himself unspotted from the world” (*Jms. 1:27*).

A certain amount of “surface dirt” is picked up every day as we carry out our duties in work or business, but this can be removed as we come to Jesus and ask Him to “wash our feet” (our daily walk). (See *Jn. 13:1-20*.) Also, because of the frailties and imperfections of the human nature, there can be many momentary failures, “stumblings” and even occasionally what could be considered a “sin”; but for these there is God’s promise that where there is a humble and repentant heart with confession, His blood cleanses us from all unrighteousness (*I Jn. 1:8-9*). But there can be no serious defaulting

or compromise with the godliness and “filth” of this world, for such defilement with the dirt and grime of this world could disqualify the one previously purified. This is why Paul says in *I Corinthians 9:27*: “*I buffet my body and make it my slave, lest possibly, after I have preached to others I myself should be dis-qualified*” (for the heavenly prize and calling).

Refer again to the Scripture with which I began the last paragraph. Notice that Jesus says,

“Thou has a FEW names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments....”

Revelation 3:4

Out of all the Christians in the church at Sardis, only a “few” would qualify to “walk with Jesus in white.” This Scripture alone should make us realize that not all Christians will qualify for this high calling. Of the church at Sardis Jesus said: “...*thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead*” (*Rev. 3:1*). Are there not many churches which fall into that category today? Although I believe that the 7 churches of Asia depict the *progressive stages* of church history down through this age, I also believe that ALL together (for “7” is the number of *completeness*) these churches picture the entire “spectrum” of the church-world in this end time. All the characteristics of the church world today, both good and bad, are depicted in these 7 churches. The same deviations and corruptions for which Jesus rebuked some of the churches severely, are still present in some churches today. And thankfully, the excellent characteristics for which some of the church were commended by Jesus, are also in evidence today among some Christians. As we read the 7 letters, we note that there are “overcomers” out of *all* of the churches. But we have already seen that in Sardis, only a “few” would be found to be “worthy” (fit, suitable, deserving) of the “Overcomer’s Calling.”

The Philadelphia church, on the other hand, was highly commended for its faithfulness, and thus very likely the *bulk* of those that *God sees* as being in this church category would

be classed as “overcomers.” That is why this 6th church parallels the 6th parable on the Pearl of great price, for as we have seen, the making of a pearl is a type of the overcoming life. A very special promise is made to this church:

“Because thou hast kept the word of My patience (perseverance or steadfastness), I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation (testing), which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.”

Revelation 3:10

This “hour of testing” is a reference to the Great Tribulation that is coming. A “firstfruits company” of overcomers will be “kept” from this time of Tribulation by being translated and glorified before that time of Tribulation. To others of this church it no doubt means an absolute protection through that Tribulation; and also the promise of being used mightily in the power of the Spirit at that time. This is implied in another special promise given to this church:

“Behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou has kept My word, and has not denied My Name.”

Revelation 3:8

Those in this church can be “kept” from the time of testing, because they have already proven faithful ahead of time through God’s dealings and testings in their lives; they have sought to live the “overcoming life” in truth and holiness and righteousness. Thus the 6th church (Philadelphia) and the 6th parable (Pearl of great price) and the 6th Feast (Day of Atonement – cleansing and purifying through the High Priest’s ministry) PREPARE for the 7th church (Laodicea), the 7th parable (the “net” cast into the “sea of humanity” for a great “net of souls) and the 7th Feast (Tabernacles – the final “ingathering” before Jesus comes to “tabernacle” with man.

Among other things, Jesus characterizes the Laodicean church as being “naked” (*Rev. 3:17*). In the Scriptures the

term "naked" is used symbolically to mean the 'exposure' of one's true condition; to be 'discovered' or 'made manifest'. Just what is God going to do to expose the 'nakedness' of the Laodicean church? I believe the key is found in *Revelation 16:15*:

"Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame."

When Jesus comes as a "thief," He "takes" (by translation) the 144,000 Firstfruits. They will simply be found "missing." This sudden, SHOCKING event and its aftermath, will expose the true spiritual condition of every remaining Christian. Certainly there will be many consecrated Christians left behind (for God's purpose) who will have been "keeping their garments" (from defilement), and in the verse quoted above, Jesus says "blessed are they," for they will not need to be ashamed. But to those "caught naked" (unprepared) it will be a time of great shame. There will be a remedy, however, for those willing to be quickly diligent. It is found in a Scripture which I have already dealt with, but which I will quote again to emphasize certain words.

"I counsel thee to buy of Me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see."

Revelation 3:18

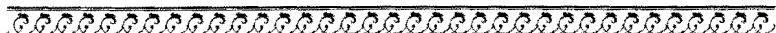
The word "*appear*" in that verse means to be 'made manifest or publicly exposed'. The only way the "*lukewarm*" shall be able to mitigate such open shame will be to "*buy*" quickly (with the whole intensity of their being) what is needed from the Lord.

I will now deal with just one more thing before concluding this chapter. We have already seen that the High Priest entering "beyond the veil" on the Day of Atonement is a type of that "elect BODY" which will enter the New Jerusalem to reign with Christ, for the New Jerusalem will be the "Holy of

Holies" of the coming Kingdom. What was required of the High Priest that day also typifies the qualifications necessary. We have already seen that the High Priest entered with (1) the blood of sacrifice: (2) the "crown" of the Holy Anointing Oil upon his head, and (3) the linen clothes made especially for that occasion. But there is one more requirement that I did not mention before, namely (4) the incense (*Lev. 16:12*).

Sweet incense burnt before the Lord speaks symbolically of the thought-emotions that arise from our hearts in communion, gratitude, adoration, love and worship to our wonderful Lord. It speaks of an intimacy of fellowship whereby you KNOW the Lord in increasing daily experience, and your heart "bubbles over" in sweet fellowship with Him. On two occasions Jesus spoke to certain ones that He did not "know" them (*Matt. 7:22-23, 25:11-12*), yet it is quite obvious they were believers in Him. They were either too spiritually lazy or too busy doing works for Him to take the time to get to "KNOW Him" in a personal way. Years after He had received Christ as his Savior, the Apostle Paul's heart-cry was "*that I might KNOW Him*" (*Phil. 3:10*). If we hope to dwell with Jesus in the coming Kingdom, we must seek to increasingly "know" Him now.

Finally, read carefully *Revelation 21:12* and *21*, and notice that not only was each gate a pearl, but that on the gates were written the names of the 12 tribes of Israel. Thus there was a name on each pearl. This is most significant, and in the next chapters I am going to show the meaning of these names and how they relate to the path of the overcoming life.



CHAPTER 2

NAMES OF TRIBES ON GATES OF PEARL

In the chapter on “The Pearl of Great Price” (see *Matt. 13:45-46*), I showed that the genuine pearl, the only gem that comes from the sea (of humanity), and the only one made by a “living process,” is a beautiful type of the “overcomers.” That “pearl of great price” is a type of a body of “overcomers” who will inherit the “upper” or Heavenly Kingdom, in contrast to other Christians who will have their lot here on earth, within the confines of the earthly kingdom. I connected the “pearl of great price” with the “gates of pearl” (*Rev. 21:21*) of the New Jerusalem, a celestial city, which is to be lowered into our upper atmosphere, to become the home and headquarters of the overcomers who will be ruling with Christ over the earth. I also mentioned that on the 12 gates of pearl are written the names of the 12 tribes of Israel (*Rev. 21:12*), and suggested that these very names (and their meanings) picture the progressive pattern and requirements that are necessary for the “overcomers” who will eventually ENTER IN through those “pearly gates.”

In conformity with the symbolic picture, has it ever occurred to you WHY Jesus ate the Passover supper with His disciples (*close* followers) in an UPPER room? (See *Lk. 22:12*.) And also that the 120 were gathered in an UPPER room on the day of Pentecost? (See *Acts 1:13*.) All of these “little”

things are meant to **SPEAK** to us! Here we have portrayed in symbolic action, the two groups which will inherit the UPPER kingdom centered in the New Jerusalem. First, the Twelve, who were *with Jesus before* the day of Pentecost, picture by type the “**Firstfruits**” (**Rev. 14:1-4**) who will be translated *before* the 2nd Pentecost or “latter rain” falls. The 120 represent the “harvest company” of overcomers who will remain on earth to *experience* the “latter rain” and be used mightily *during* the Tribulation period. Then, receiving their translation to glorified life they will enter the “upper kingdom” at the Tribulation’s *close*.

I will mention here that it is my conviction that since there is a name of one of the “tribes” of Israel on each of the gates, and since everyone who enters that City must go through one of those gates, that God has (or will) assign each overcoming Christian to a particular “tribe.” God is a God of order, and even as here on earth we are spiritually related to and work with certain other Christians in a definite locality or fellowship; even so in the Heavenly City, God will assign us to be related to and work with a certain “company” or “tribe” of glorified saints. I believe this helps us to understand the passage in **Revelation chapter 7** where 12,000 are sealed out of each “tribe” of Israel, as a “Firstfruits” unto God (**verses 4-8**). I believe this “sealing” has a *double* application (to fulfill the principle which Jesus stated in **Matt. 6:10**, “*as in heaven, so on earth*”). First, there will be (and is going on now) a “sealing” of the 144,000 *spiritual* Israelites, who are the “seed” of Abraham by *faith* (**Gal. 3:29**), as a “Firstfruits” unto the *Heavenly Kingdom* (also mentioned in **Rev. 14:1-5**). Secondly, after the translation to glorified life of the spiritual “Firstfruits,” then shall God “seal” 144,000 within the *natural* seed of Abraham, today known as the *Jews*. They shall be sealed to become the *nucleus* and *administrative assemblage* of the *earthly* kingdom to be centered in the earthly Jerusalem. As a result of the *shocking aftermath* of the sudden translation of the 144,000 spiritual Israelites, and their reported *appearing* (manifestation) to many remaining Christians, both individu-

GREAT TRIBULATION HARVEST INTO THE HEAVENLY KINGDOM.

The "Moses" group is the God-chosen leader of the earth. It appears after the "Aaron" company, but the "Aaron" company is chosen by "Moses."

SPIRITUAL ISRAEL

True Church among nations, including the 10 virgins and the "Aaron" company with the valid Holy Spirit Baptism

Isaiah 40:1-3, Luke 1:17, Matthew 17:10-13 "John the Baptist" ministry, preparing for the manifesting of the First-fruits of the Body of Christ (*Rom. 8:19*).

Fully dedicated "Isaac" group - the one begotten for the purpose.

Rightside Olive Branch, John, the type of Joshua, who lived through the wilderness of testing.
The rightside "Moses" leader of the "Church in the wilderness."
The first Witness of *Revelation 11:6*. The 5 foolish virgins.

The 144,000 group of the **Revelation 14** Firstfruits.
The "Enoch" group of heavenly Firstfruits.
THE BRIDE COMPANY
The first loaf, **Leviticus 23:17**, waved before the Lord.

ministry
Malachi 3:18

Rightside Lampstand Group. The "Aaron" company which waits 50 days for the great outpouring of the Holy Spirit. The initiators of the "Elijah" group.

ministry
to feed
the woman

The **rightside** woman of Christendom in the "wilderness." **Revelation 12:6**

The standard (**Isa. 59:19**) "Jachin"
- 'he shall establish' (**I Ki. 7:21**).

Rightside "Boaz" - cheerful, lively contented (**I Ki. 7:21**).

The constantly enlarging Glorious Church. The **Isaiah 30:26** seven-fold sun.

THE HARVEST COMPANY

At the end of the age (**Matt. 13:39**), the prepared Harvest company, having become the greater fulfillment of the "Elijah" group, leaves its mantle to the then still earth-bound "Elisha" group which lives on into the Millennium (**Lev. 23:22**).

The few who see the "Elisha" host go up will immediately receive the double portion - power poured out and immortality on earth. Others of the "Elisha" group will enter into their double portion later (**II Ki. 2:2**).

(See page 196 for **Physical Israel Chart**)

als and groups, many Jews will be *converted* to Jesus and accept Him as their Messiah and Savior. From these converted, or "Messianic Jews," will the 144,000 be sealed.

Even today, many Jews are turning to Jesus as their Messiah. I once listened to a radio program out of Washington, D.C., conducted by a Messianic Jew. He mostly interviewed other Jews who had accepted Jesus. He made the statement on one program that "about 10 years ago, when I was converted, there were just a *few* of us Messianic Jews, but today there are *thousands*." It will no doubt be to some of the Messianic Jews that the "Firstfruits saints" will appear to, instructing them and giving them direction for ministry. They, in turn, will be *emboldened* to share their experience with their *unbelieving* fellow-Jews, causing many to ponder, search the Scriptures, and come under the conviction of the Holy Spirit that Jesus ("Yeshua" in Hebrew), is indeed their Messiah.

It is my conviction, based on the *pattern* of Jesus' manifestations (appearances) after His resurrection and glorification, that the Firstfruits saints who receive their glorified bodies at the beginning of the Tribulation, will *first* appear only to very *devout* Christians who have been close followers of the Lord; and this will no doubt, as I have just pointed out, include some *devout* Messianic Jews who are followers of Jesus. Jesus first appeared to Mary Magdalene, and the other women who had followed Him closely throughout His ministry, and then to His own disciples whom He had chosen. Paul, however, mentions that Jesus, sometime later, appeared to more than "five hundred brethren at once" (I Cor. 15:6). Based on this pattern, I believe that the scope of manifestation of the glorified "Firstfruits" saints will increase as the Tribulation progresses. But their ministry, if the pattern that Jesus set during His 40 days of manifestation holds true (Acts 1:3), will be *to the church*, not to the world. Yet the church on earth, with the incredible "shot in the arm" by the "overshadowing" protection, instruction, and guidance of these glorified Firstfruits "manifested sons," and the empowering provided by the "latter rain" outpouring, will preach the "gospel of the kingdom"

to the ends of the earth before the end comes (*Matt. 24:14*). And when necessary, certain ministries will be *bodily transported* by the Spirit as was Philip, which is recorded in the *Book of Acts (8:39)*. This will enable the Gospel to be preached to any remote tribe or area of the earth.

Did you know that such “transportation” was *typed* in the Old Testament? Those of you who have read my booklet on the *THREE PHASE COMING OF JESUS* know that *Elijah* pictures the church in the Tribulation period. When God told Elijah to appear before king Ahab, as he was on the way, he met Obadiah, the king’s servant, who was out hunting for water. Elijah told Obadiah to go ahead and announce to Ahab that he was coming. With great fear Obadiah appealed to Elijah to not require this of him, for he said:

“It shall come to pass, as soon as I am gone from thee, that the Spirit of the Lord shall carry thee whither I know not; and so when I come and tell Ahab, and he cannot find thee, he will slay me.”

I Kings 18:12

So, evidently Elijah’s reputation of being transported by the Spirit was well known. What God *typed* in the Old Covenant, He shall bring to *fullness* under the New Covenant.

This brings me to one more matter related to the second application of the “sealing” of the 144,000 of *Revelation 7*. Those of you with your “thinking caps” on might ask: “How can 12,000 be sealed out of each tribe of *natural* Israel, if that people known today as the Jews are made up of only the tribes of Judah and Benjamin, as is commonly taught?” I believe, however, that a careful study of Scripture reveals that a *representative portion* of *all* of the tribes were, in the process of time, incorporated into the southern kingdom of Judah, following the *split* which a Prophet of God foretold in *I Kings 11:29-39*, and which is detailed in *I Kings 12:1-16*. This is a study in itself, and cannot be dealt with in detail here. But because of much confusion and misunderstanding, I have shared briefly on a few of the basic Scriptures in the chapters dealing with

"The Divided Kingdom and the Elect Remnant." [The reader is also encouraged to read **BRITISH ISRAELISM: FACT OR FICTION** from Shepherdsfield Publishers.]

I believe I should touch on one other matter here that relates to the church's coming ministry *in power*, that it might be an *incentive* for all of you to *press* "into Christ," making sure, of course, that your motive is right. In **John 14:12**, Jesus declares:

"Verily, verily, I say unto you, he that believeth on (the Greek word for "on" here is 'eis', and should be translated "into") Me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works shall he do; because I go to the Father."

This Scripture does not apply to those Christians who simply believe "in" or "on" which is required in order to secure salvation, but for those who over a period of time have consistently and persistently sought to "press on" deeply INTO Jesus Christ. These "greater works" will be accomplished during the Tribulation by "maturing sons" who for one reason or another will not be among the "Firstfruits" to receive glorified bodies at the Tribulation's beginning. If you want to be among those who will do "greater works," you must apply yourself to THE work mentioned in **John 6:29**: *"This is the work of God that ye believe on* (again, the Greek word is '*eis*' meaning 'INTO') *Him Whom He has sent."* It takes little effort to believe "on" Jesus, but great diligence and effort is required to believe "INTO" Him, in depth.

Now let us consider the *progressive stages* of the Christian life, and especially the "*overcoming*" life which is depicted in the names of the 12 sons of Jacob. In **Hosea 12:10** we read that God has wrought "similitudes" (patterns) by the ministry of the Prophets. Since Jacob was a Prophet, it is important that we begin by understanding the symbology God sought to portray through his life.

Jacob was the *twin* bother of Esau. Their father was Isaac and their mother was Rebekah. When Rebekah was pregnant, the Scripture says that *"the children struggled together*

within her” (Gen. 25:22). Inquiring of the Lord, He gave her this message:

“Two nations are in thy womb and two manner of people shall be separated from thy bowels; and the one people shall be stronger than the other people; and the elder shall serve the younger.”

Genesis 25:23

When these twins were born, we read that,

“...The first came out red, all over like an hairy garment; and they called his name Esau. And after that came his brother out, and his hand took hold on Esau’s heel; and his name was called Jacob...and the boys grew; and Esau was a cunning hunter, a man of the field; and Jacob was a plain man, dwelling in tents.”

Genesis 25:25-27

There are several aspects of truth portrayed by these twins with which we will deal. First, since the two were in ONE womb, they speak to us of the *two natures* within each born-again Christian. Esau, the *firstborn*, speaks to us of the *carnal*, Adamic nature which all of us have *first*. His name means ‘hairy’, and he was later called Edom, which means ‘red’ – linking with our red earth, and reflecting that which is “earthly” (*I Cor. 15:47*), or earth-oriented – materialistically inclined. Jacob means ‘supplanter’ or ‘replacer’, and speaks to us of the *new* Spirit-born nature which we have when we accept Jesus as our Savior and become “new creatures” (*II Cor. 5:17*); and God has ordained that this “new creature” nature should RE-place and *supplant* the old nature received through Adam. Esau (the elder) was to serve Jacob (the younger), showing us that our “old man,” as Paul calls our carnal nature (*Rom. 6:6*), is to come into subservience to our newer Spirit-born nature. As the two struggled together in the womb, so does this picture the *warfare* which goes on with the “womb” of our soul between “flesh” and “spirit” (*Gal. 5:17*). Jacob’s name was later changed to “Israel” (‘prince with God’) at Jabbok (which means ‘outpouring’); and por-

trays for us in symbolic action the truth of the baptism of the Holy Spirit, which is so necessary for us to receive, that the “fire” of God’s Spirit might “*purge*” us within of the *bondage* to the carnal propensities of our “Esau” nature, and give our new “Jacob” nature the *power* for victory and “overcoming,” that we might become “princes” to rule with Christ.

Since Jacob portrays the born-again Christian, or our new nature in Christ, his sons symbolize the *progressive stages* of our progress in Christ, and/or the *growing virtues* and *strengths* which the Lord desires to produce in our lives. They can also picture *purposes* and *destinies* the Lord has for us. With this in mind, let us notice the progression in the lives of these sons from the firstborn to the last. Eleven of these sons were born to Jacob during his *sojourn* in *Padan-Aram*, outside the “Promised Land.” That speaks of what the Lord desires to do in us by means of the various *testings* and *experiences* we go through as he works IN us according to His good pleasure (*Phil. 2:13*), and as He works all things (circumstances) in our lives according to the counsel of His will (*Eph. 1:11*). The 12th son, Benjamin, which means ‘son of my right hand’, was born IN the *Promised Land* (west side), and thus depicts the GOAL the Lord has for us of being translated (or resurrected) INTO His Heavenly Kingdom (to “rule” with Him), providing we meet the requirement as predicted by the preceding sons.

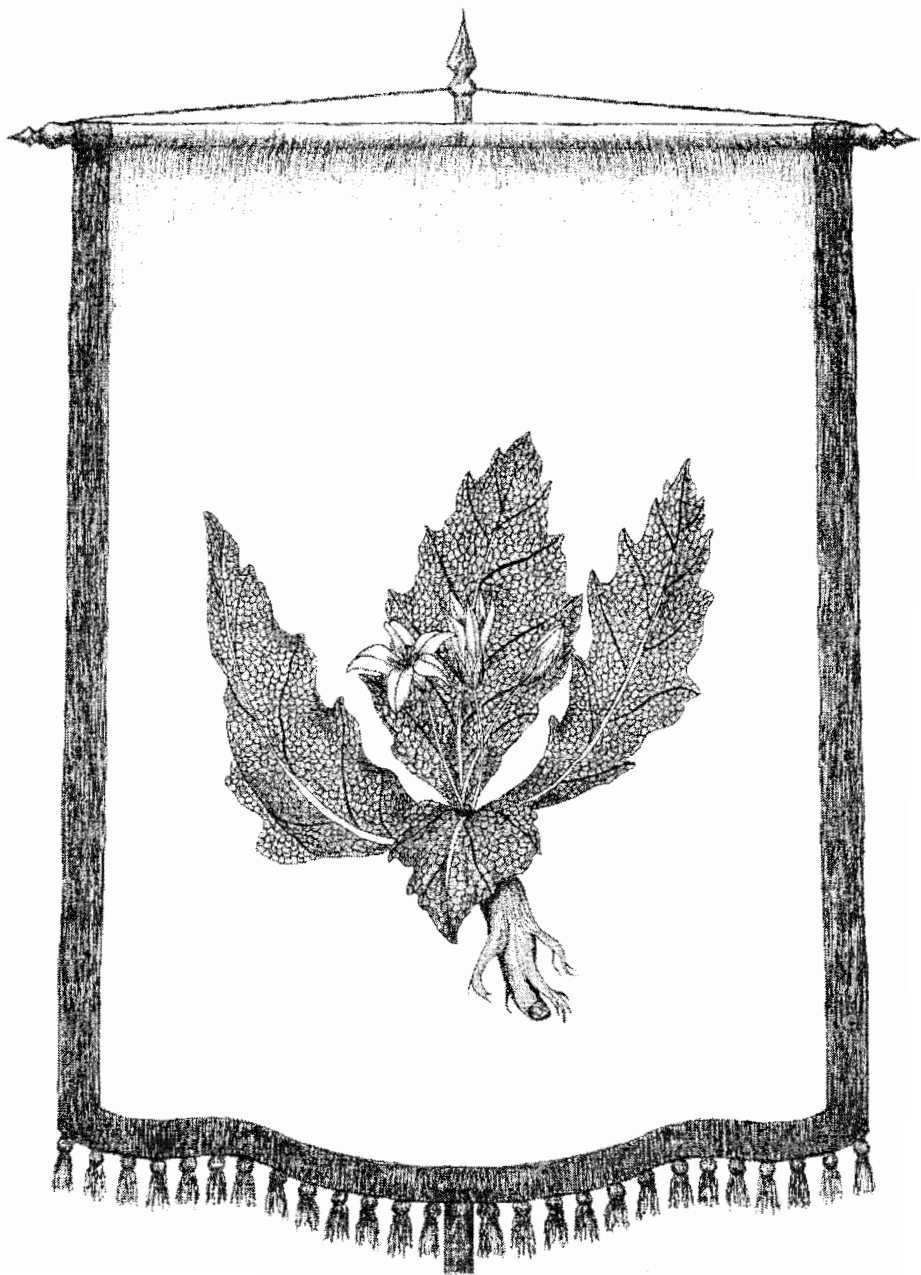
JACOB’S SONS

REUBEN

Reuben was Jacob’s first son. When prophesying over his sons, as recorded in *Genesis 49*, Jacob spoke thusly over Reuben:

“Reuben, you are my firstborn, my might and the beginning of my strength....”

verse 3



Reuben

“And Leah conceived, and bare a son, and she called his name Reuben: for she said, Surely the LORD hath looked upon my affliction; now therefore my husband will love me.”

Genesis 29:32

THE BLESSING OF REUBEN BY JACOB/ISRAEL

“Reuben, thou art my firstborn, my might, and the beginning of my strength, the excellency of dignity, and the excellency of power: unstable as water, thou shalt not excel; because thou wentest up to thy father’s bed; then defiledst thou it: he went up to my couch.”

Genesis 49:3-4

THE BLESSING BY MOSES

“Let Reuben live, and not die; and let not his men be few.”

Deuteronomy 33:6

Reuben speaks to us of the beginning of the Lord's strength (virtue) in us when we are "born anew" (*Jn. 3:3*), and the Holy Spirit lifts a glorified, incorruptible, life-seed (see *I Pet. 1:23*) out of the glorified body of Jesus and *grafts* it into our soul-structure (see *Jms. 1:21*), flushing it through with "eternal life," causing us to become a part of "His generation" (compare *Isa. 53:8,10* with *Ps. 22:30*), and a new-born member of the family of God. Reuben actually *extends* and *amplifies* the symbolism of Jacob himself, as picturing the "born-again" Christian. But the amplification is significant, and we need to pursue the symbolism further to get *added insight* and clarification.

Reuben, in the Hebrew, means 'behold a son'. How could we behold or see without *light*? Or how could there be a son without *life*? Our new life in Christ begins when we respond to God's light (truth), and God 'beholds a son' newly born into His family. This corresponds to what God did on the first day of Creation, as recorded in *Genesis 1*; for as the Spirit of God moved on the face of the waters (a symbol of our soul), God said: "*let there be light*" (*verse 3*). The light dispelled the darkness that was on the "*face of the deep*." When we accept Christ Who IS light, the darkness which has lodged deep within our soul begins to disappear. And this takes place only because of the faithfulness of the Holy Spirit to "move" or to "brood" over our soul, convicting us of sin and drawing us to Christ (*Jn. 16:7-9*) Who alone can dispel all darkness with HIS LIGHT. Both the *name* of Jacob's *first* son, and what *God did* on the *first* day of Creation give us the "key" to the *meaning* that God symbolically attaches to the number "1" – namely: LIGHT and LIFE, as coming from the *only source* of light and life – God Himself.

What God has begun in us, however, He wants to continue. He wants to increasingly lift and remove any darkness which remains in any part of our soul. He wants continued openness and receptivity to His light to develop into a strong virtue. It is so easy to accept a little light and then "close the door" to further truth the Lord wants to reveal to us. We are

to continue to study, probe and search; that the Lord might “lift the veils” from our eyes, so that “the entrance of His Word may bring light” (*Ps. 119:130*). We are to study to show ourselves *approved* of God, and this “approval” of God for the “prize” (which we will discuss later) cannot come unless we are not only diligent seekers of Truth, but also *enter into* the ‘freedom-setting power’ of that truth (*Jn. 8:32*).

In the natural, God has given each of us *two* eyes, set at a certain distance apart in our head. Why? In order to give us *depth perception*. When you cover one eye, things look somewhat flat; but with two eyes we see in *depth*. Most of you, no doubt, have had the experience of looking at colored slides through a Viewmaster, which “transforms” the flat, two-dimensional pictures into three-dimensional depth. The natural is a type of the spiritual. God does *not* want us to be “flat,” shallow, surface Christians; He wants to put some *depth* into our lives. In the *Book of Ephesians*, Paul prays *two* prayers. The first one is recorded in *Ephesians 1:16-19*, wherein Paul expresses his desire that the “*eyes of their understanding*” might be “*enlightened*,” that they might *know* certain truths (*1:18*). His second prayer is a “follow-up” on this. Read *Ephesians 3:14-19*, wherein he prays that they:

“...*May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and height and depth; and to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fullness of God.*”

The word “comprehend” in *Ephesians 3:18* is *not* a correct translation. The Greek word is *katalambano*, which means ‘to take eagerly, to seize or possess’; and carries the idea of “laying hold of in order to make it *personally yours in experience*.” The Lord wants us to experience in *depth* what He has revealed to us in His Word. Read *Ephesians 3:18-19* in the *AMPLIFIED VERSION*. I believe the Lord’s attitude toward Christians who *continue* to be “shallow” is the same as toward the “lukewarm” of *Revelation 3:16*. In *I Corinthians 2:6-13*, Paul declares that unto the *maturing*, there is a “*wisdom*” of God, revealing the “*deep things of God*.” Our *two eyes* symbolize God’s pur-

pose for us to experience DEPTH in the Word. Later we will see that our *two ears* symbolize God's purpose for us to have BALANCE in the Word, as well as DIVIDING and DISCERNMENT.

This leads us into the consideration of one more *important truth* with reference to Reuben, Jacob's firstborn. Previously, I quoted a portion of Jacob's prophecy over Reuben as recorded in *Genesis 49:3-4*. I will quote that portion again, and then add another statement given in *verse 4*. "*Reuben, thou art my firstborn, my might, and the beginning of my strength ...unstable as water; thou shalt not excel; because thou wentest up to thy father's bed; then defiledst thou it: he went up to my couch.*" The historical event referred to is recorded in *Genesis 35:22*. Because of his act of carnality, Reuben was *disqualified* from receiving the birthright blessing of the firstborn, which involved receiving a *double portion* of his father's inheritance, as well as patriarchal leadership responsibilities involving priestly and rulership functions. The birthright instead was given to Joseph (*I Chron. 5:2*). When we come to the section on Joseph's sons, I will explain just what the "birthright" involves as it relates to our inheritance as Christians. It is no accident that the apostle Paul expressed concern in *I Corinthians 9:24-27* that he might be "disqualified" from receiving a certain "prize," and, later on, I will relate this prize to the birthright blessing. Neither is it any accident that Jacob's word to Reuben was "*unstable as water*," for water, in God's symbolic language is a type of the *soul*, through which function *desire*, *feelings* and *emotions*. Reuben's "instability" pictures the condition of born-again Christians who let their carnal desires and feelings dominate them. They are like those of whom Paul wrote in *I Corinthians 3:1-3*:

"And I brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ. I fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able. For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?"

THE PEARL OF GREAT PRICE

The "Reuben" stage is necessary, for it is the *beginning* of our Christian life, even that of being "born" into the family of God. However, God does not want us to *remain* there; *just satisfied* with being *saved*. For if we do, we will tend to settle down (as many Christians have) into a somewhat "static" conditions; letting the "water" of our desires and feelings dominate us; and thus failing to "go on" and excel unto the attaining of the "prize" (*Phil. 3:14*) of the birthright blessing. Just as Reuben lost out on the birthright blessing, so will most Christians. That does *not* mean they *lose* their *salvation*. Reuben was *still* in the *covenant family* of Israel, even though forfeiting the birthright. Just to stimulate your thinking, the tribe of Reuben *chose* to live on the land east side of Jordan, when the Israelites came out of the wilderness to possess the Promised Land. As elsewhere mentioned, "east" speaks of the direction of carnal man and his intellect.

SIMEON

Jacob's second son was *Simeon*. The word means '*hearing*'. After we become Christians, what is the most important attribute that God wants to develop in our lives? According to the pattern we are unfolding here in the symbolism of Jacob's sons, I believe it is the willingness to *hear the Word of the Lord*. Three times in the New Testament the words, "the *just* shall live by faith" appear (*Rom. 1:17, Gal. 3:11, Heb. 10:38*). But how does faith come?

"Faith comes by hearing, and hearing (what is said) by the Word of God."

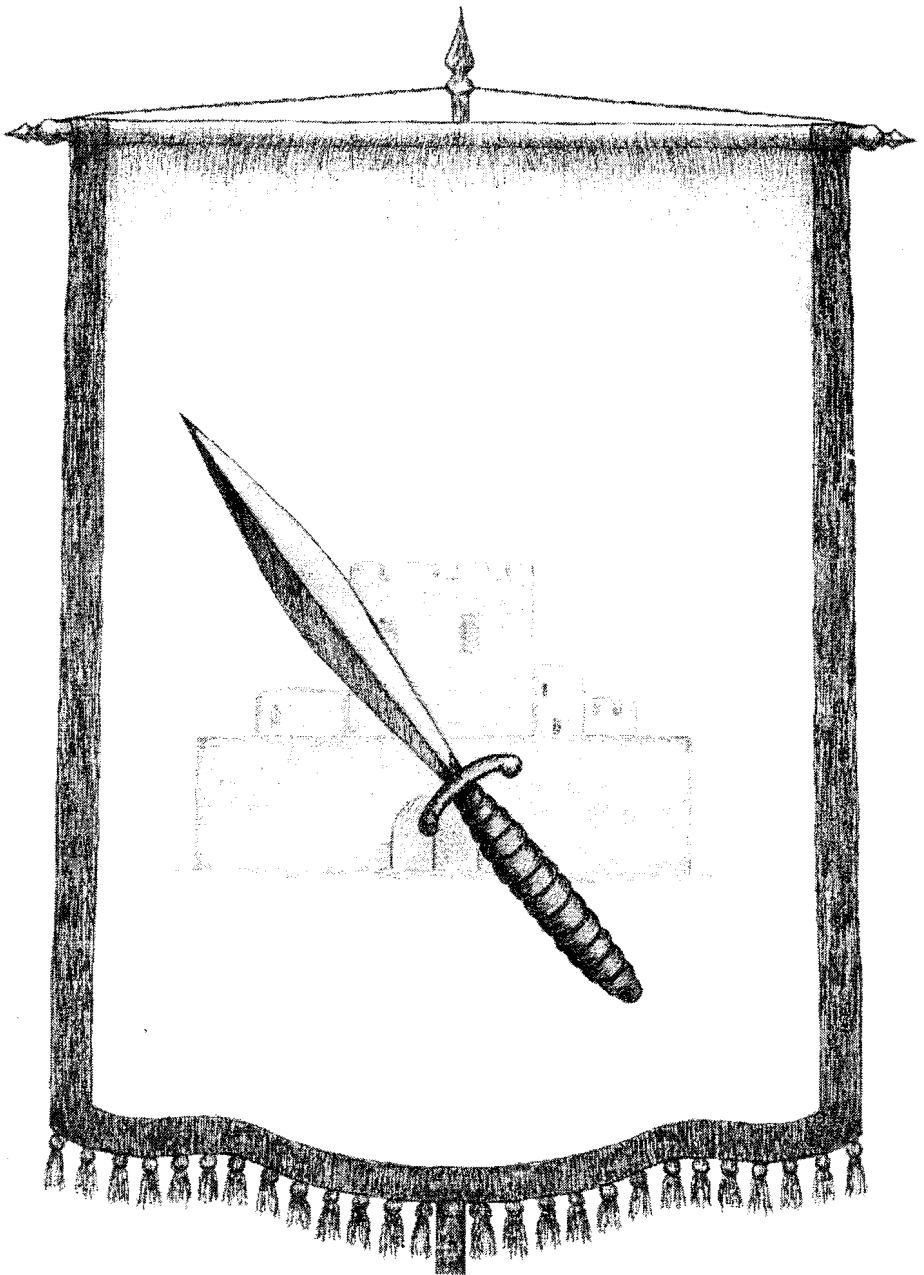
Romans 10:17

"Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God."

Matthew 4:4

"This is My beloved Son, in Whom I am well pleased, hear ye Him."

Matthew 17:5



Simeon

“And she [Leah] conceived again, and bare a son; and said, Because the LORD hath heard that I was hated, he hath therefore given me this son also: and she called his name Simeon.”

Genesis 29:33

THE BLESSING OF SIMEON BY JACOB/ISRAEL

“Simeon and Levi are brethren; instruments of cruelty are in their habitations. O my soul, come not thou into their secret; unto their assembly, mine honour, be not thou united: for in their anger they slew a man, and in their selfwill they digged down a wall. Cursed be their anger, for it was fierce; and their wrath, for it was cruel: I will divide them in Jacob, and scatter them in Israel.”

Genesis 49:5-7

THE BLESSING BY MOSES

(none recorded in Deuteronomy 33)

"He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches."

Revelation 2:7

These are just a few of the Scriptures which emphasize the importance of *hearing* the Word of the Lord.

Since Simeon was son number 2, and God has given us 2 ears, this should tell us something about the symbolic meaning of the number "2" – especially when we see what God did on the 2nd day of Creation, for God *cannot* manifest in any way *contrary* to His own intrinsic being. In *Genesis 1:7-8* we read:

"And God made the firmament (atmosphere), and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament...and God called the firmament heaven. And the evening and the morning were the second day."

Thus we see that DIVISION is the chief significance of the number "2". We are to HEAR the WORD of the Lord that we might learn to DIVIDE between *truth* and *error*, to DIVIDE between *good* and *evil*, to DIVIDE between *light* and *darkness*; for the Christian life is a continuous process of 'hearing' (understanding) that we might CHOOSE what is of God, and REFUSE that which is *not* of God. And as we *grow* in the Lord, this process of choice, by dividing, separating, screening, discerning, etc., becomes "fine tuned" to where that which does not "line up" with His holy Word and Will, and that which is not in harmony with the beauty of His holy nature and character, becomes increasingly *repugnant* to us. This is the precious "fruit" of the *dividing* process of the WORD of God, "hearing" (understanding and receiving) with increased sensitivity the Lord's every expressed desire and purpose for us.

In the parable of the Sower, Jesus likens 'hearing' the Word to that of *seed* falling into good ground:

"But that on the good ground are they, which in an honest

THE PEARL OF GREAT PRICE

and good heart, having heard the word, keep it, and bring forth fruit with patience.”

Luke 8:15

Contrasting “babes” with those who are “maturing,” the writer of the letter to the Hebrews says:

“For every one that uses milk is unskillful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their (spiritual) senses exercised to discern both good and evil.”

Hebrews 5:13-14

God’s symbolic language is consistent throughout the Scriptures. In our study on *Reuben*, we saw that “water” is symbolic of our *soul*, with its desires and emotions. Because of our innate carnality through our fallen Adamic nature, the soul’s unstable “desire-pulls” *drag us down* into *sin*. However, when God begins to work in our lives by His Word and Spirit, He begins to impregnate our souls with desires and feelings that *aspire upward*, *drawing* us always towards His will and *righteousness*. When God went into action on the 2nd day of Creation, His creative Word began to DIVIDE the waters by creating a firmament or atmosphere. Evidently, up to that point the earth was shrouded by vast cloud-banks of dense water vapors. There was no gaseous envelope around the earth with the necessary combination of oxygen, nitrogen, etc., in order for LIFE to manifest and be sustained. When God moved to create that atmosphere, He *divided* the waters so that some of the waters were *condensed below*, to form the “seas” on the earth; whereas other water was *pushed upward* to form a vast water vapor canopy above the atmosphere. It was these “waters above” that God caused to descend in the days of Noah to bring about the flood, and *uniting* all waters. This symbolically shows that the *ultimate goal* and purpose of division is UNITY.

God cannot bring us into a full UNITY and ●NENESS with Him, until His W●RD and His SPIRIT do a separating,

dividing work in our lives. The “*spiritual atmosphere*” which God creates in our lives through the working of His grace, as he restructures our minds (thought-patterns) by the power of His Word, and as he purifies our hearts by His Spirit-fire, enables us to *divide* and *distinguish* between those “water” (soul-desires) that are *below*, and drag us *downward* into sin and materialism, and the “waters” (soul-desires) that are *above*, and draw us *upward* to truth, righteousness and purity. How beautiful is that which “*Simeon*” portrays: ‘hearing’ God’s every Word, that the dividing, separating, discerning process may bring us into increasing ONENESS with our Beloved Savior and Lord.

There is another aspect of ‘hearing’ His Word that is extremely important: that of BALANCE. The Lord has given us 2 ears. If you have *one* that is functioning properly, but are *deaf* in the other, then in any given situation you are only going to hear part of what is being said, depending, in part, on which way your head may be turned. This is a *great problem, spiritually*, among Christians. They are *partially deaf* to what God wants them to hear. According to the Scriptures, however, their ‘hearing’ problem is related to a “heart” problem. Speaking of the Jews, Jesus said: “*This people’s heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing*” (Matt. 13:15). In the *Book of Hebrews*, 3 times God speaks these words: “*Today if ye will hear His voice, harden not your hearts*” (Heb. 3:7,15, 4:7). We have been given the ability, through our free will, to *resist* whatever truth we do not want to “hear.” If the “resistance” continues long enough, it will “harden” our hearts.

There are numerous reasons why any one of us might not want to “hear” certain truth, and our hearts become hardened to it through resistance:

- 1) it conflicts with our *traditions*,
- 2) it “hurts” our *pride* and we do not want to humble ourselves,
- 3) it will require a *change* of our thinking and belief, and we do not want to admit that our previous position was wrong,

THE PEARL OF GREAT PRICE

- 4) we are *afraid* of what it might cost us,
- 5) we are *comfortable* and *satisfied* and we do not want to be disturbed,
- 6) we do not want to *take* the *time* to *study* and search out a matter,
- 7) we may suffer *persecution* from friends or relatives,
- 8) the church we attend does not *accept* it,
- 9) the “overcoming” life is just not “palatable” to us; we simply do not want to *face* our *carnal* shortcomings and let God *deal* with them,
- 10) we have been *warned* by traditionalists against getting into “deception” so many times that we are afraid to “look **for** ourselves,
- 11) it will *require* too much of us; we want an “easy” way to glory, and
- 12) the *heart hunger* is simply *not* there for us to experience the reality of **Jeremiah 15:16**:

*“Thy words were found, and I
did eat them; and Thy word was unto me the joy and rejoic-
ing of mine heart.”*

One more illustration. Supposing a person had one ear missing. Or, supposing one ear was much larger than the other. When seeing that person what would be your impression? You would probably think: “their head does not look balanced.” Thus, our 2 ears of equal size speak to us of *balance*! Do you realize that *physically speaking*, your sense of balance has its center of control in your *inner ear*? The *natural* is a *type* of the *spiritual*. Only as we are willing to ‘hear’ ALL of God’s revelation to us, can we maintain BALANCE in the Word. Most error is simply some *facet* of *truth* taken to an *extreme* and gotten **out** of *balance* with *other facets* of truth.



CHAPTER 3

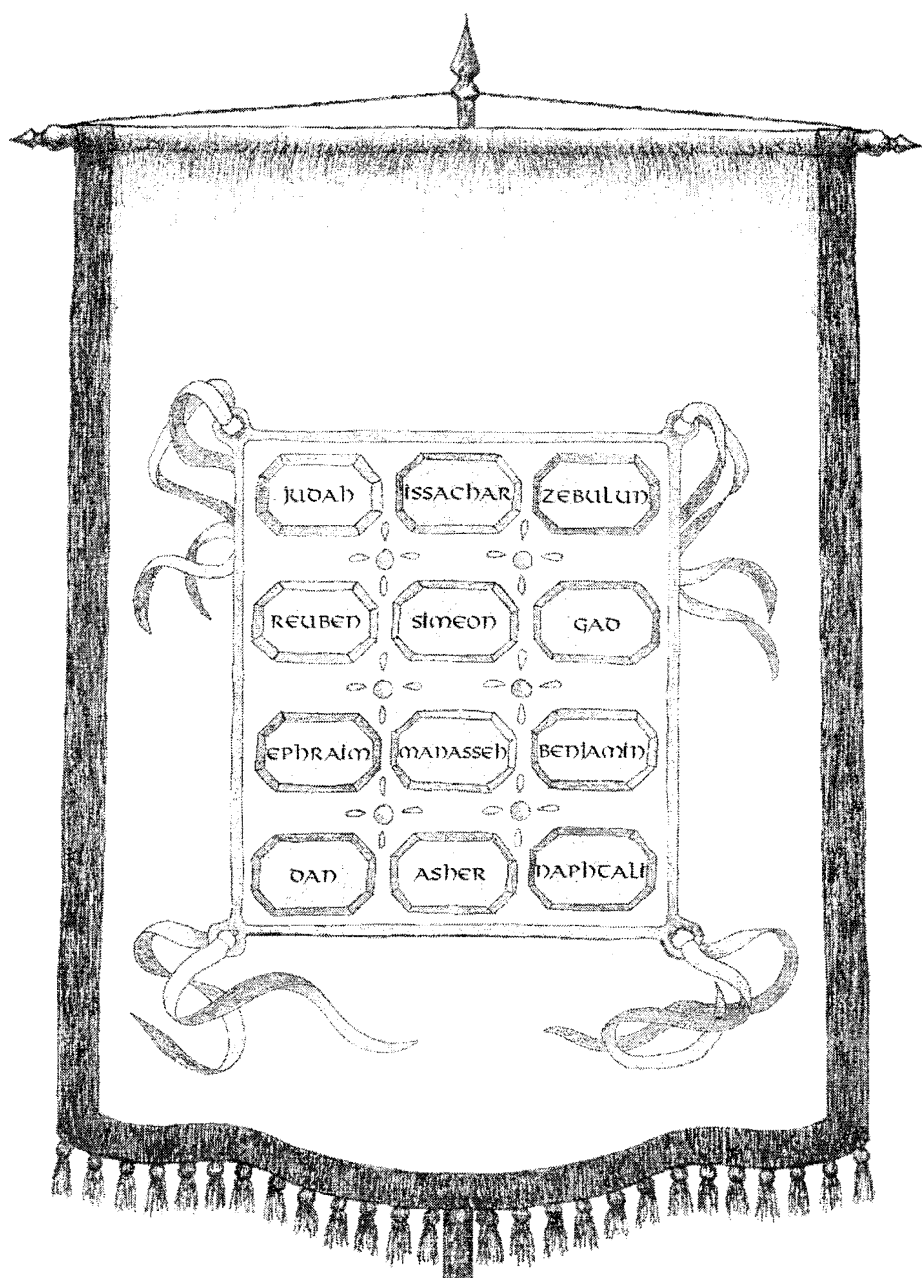
HEARING AND ADHERING TO THE WORD OF GOD

Before going on to Jacob's 3rd son, I want to emphasize one more truth with reference to Simeon, for he was son number 2, and ALL "overcoming" is founded in the number 2. We have seen that the number 2 stands for dividing and separating, that we might learn to divide between good and evil, truth and error, light and darkness; that our spiritual "senses" might increasingly be "fine-tuned" to discernment; "screening" out of our lives in thought, word and deed that which is not pleasing to the Lord. The number '2' is the only number in the digits from 1 to 10 that can be "cubed" ($2 \times 2 \times 2$), resulting in another number within the digits – the number "8". The number 8 carries the "highest power" of all the digits, for the very reason that it is the only number that is a "cube" of another (2).

In the chapter on the "Pearl of Great Price," we saw that the "Holy of Holies" in the Tabernacle was a perfect "cube" ($10 \times 10 \times 10$ cubits). We also saw that this "Holy of Holies" was a miniature *picture* and *type* of the *New Jerusalem*, which is also a perfect cube (see *Rev. 21:16*). Since the number 8 carries the highest power, it is no accident that the equivalent name of Jesus in the Greek language totals up to exactly "888". He was the *perfect overcomer* (see *Jn. 16:33; Rev. 3:21*), setting the pattern for all who would "reign" with Him in the New Jerusalem, but also providing the "spoils" of HIS VIC-

TORY FOR US, for our “overcoming” is ONLY in the *power* of His matchless GRACE *extended* to us through His triumphant life and sacrificial, vicarious, death and resurrection. Our “overcoming” is after the same “manner” (choosing to PLEASE the Father in everything we do, say and think (*Jn. 8:29*); but, of course, not to the same “degree,” for He was perfect. Yet, by partaking of what He DID for us through faith (*I Jn. 5:4*), and letting His life and power work IN us and THROUGH us, by our being *joined* to Him, and *abiding* (as the branch to the vine – *Jn. 15:4*), we can deny the self-life, take up our cross (in steadfast determination to live “sacrificially” for Him), and FOLLOW Him in the “overcoming life” right INTO the “Heavenly Kingdom” where He is (when our bodies are changed like unto His – *Phil. 3:21*). Yet, again, all of this “overcoming” is founded in the number “2” – we MUST learn to DIVIDE and SEPARATE ourselves from everything that would hinder our continued progress, especially from the defilements of this world – living the “virgin” life of FAITHFULNESS to our BRIDEGROOM (*II Cor. 11:2; Jms. 4:4, Rev. 14:4*).

The very WORD of GOD is founded in this number “2”, for the Word of God is likened to a TWO-edged SWORD which is meant to DIVIDE (to “cut” to the very “quick” of our being, exposing every thought and motive of our hearts, even to the “dividing of soul and spirit” – *Heb. 4:12*). We must let that sword expose and “slay” the soul (self) life, that in so “losing our soul” we may gain the higher “Spirit life” in Christ. When John saw the glorified Christ, he said that a “sharp two-edged sword” came out of His mouth (*Rev. 12:16*). Of Mary it was spoken that “a sword shall pierce thy heart, that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed” (*Lk. 2:35*). It was no “easy” matter to bear the burden of being the mother of Jesus, in Whom was incarnated the very Divine Son of God – One Who was appearing as a total failure. Surely, the “sword” pierced Mary’s heart many times during Jesus’ life and ministry. And so will it pierce our hearts, if we FULLY identify with Him in the path of the “Overcoming life.” But when the



Levi

“And she [Leah] conceived again, and bare a son; and said, Now this time will my husband be joined unto me, because I have born him three sons: therefore was his name called Levi.”

Genesis 29:34

THE BLESSING OF LEVI BY JACOB/ISRAEL

“Simeon and Levi are brethren; instruments of cruelty are in their habitations. O my soul, come not thou into their secret; unto their assembly, mine honour; be not thou united: for in their anger they slew a man, and in their selfwill they digged down a wall. Cursed be their anger, for it was fierce; and their wrath, for it was cruel: I will divide them in Jacob, and scatter them in Israel.”

Genesis 49:5-7

THE BLESSING BY MOSES

“And of Levi he said, Let thy Thummim and thy Urim be with thy holy one, whom thou didst prove at Massah, and with whom thou didst strive at the waters of Meribah; who said unto his father and to his mother, I have not seen him; neither did he acknowledge his brethren, nor knew his own children: for they have observed thy word, and kept thy covenant.

They shall teach Jacob thy judgments, and Israel thy law: they shall put incense before thee, and whole burnt sacrifice upon thine altar.

Bless, LORD, his substance, and accept the work of his hands: smite through the loins of them that rise against him, and of them that hate him, that they rise not again.”

Deuteronomy 33:8-11

“glory” as well as the “cross” of this path is fully grasped, it is also JOY unspeakable and FULL of glory (*I Pet. 1:8*).

“For I reckon that the sufferings of the present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that shall be revealed.”

“If we suffer with Him, we shall also reign with Him.”

Suffering (self-sacrifice) and GLORY are always joined together in the Scriptures. No, it is not easy, but it is greatly rewarding, and the “prize” of WINNING Christ’s glory and Presence is worth it (*Rom. 8:17-18; II Tim. 2:12; Phil. 3:7-8, 13-14*).

Levi

Jacob’s 3rd son was Levi. The name means ‘joined’, or ‘joining’; ‘to adhere’ to another. We read in *Genesis 29:34* that when Levi was born, his mother said, *“Now this time will my husband be joined unto me.”* The New American Standard Version says, *“attached to me.”* Later on, the tribe of Levi was chosen to be the priestly tribe to minister to the Lord on behalf of the people, and also to be the custodians of God’s Law and to *teach* the people the principles of that Law that they might learn to *adhere* to or *cleave* to their God (*Num. 3:45; Mal. 2:4-9*). So here we have another virtue that God desires to develop in us: *increased adherence* in love and devotion to our “husband” (Jesus), that fruit might be brought forth in our lives. It was the Levites who *adhered* to Moses (a type of Jesus) and to the Law when the people reverted back to the calf worship they had learned in Egypt (*Ex. 32:25-26*).

Increasingly, God wants us to draw near and adhere closely to Him in a UNITY of love. We find a correspondence of truth in the name of this 3rd son, in that on the 3rd day of Creation the waters under heaven were GATHERED TOGETHER into ONE place, so that dry land could appear. This made possible the growth of vegetation and eventually fruit trees yielding fruit after their kind (*Gen. 1:10-11*). “Waters” speak symbolically of the human *soul*, with its desires and

emotions. All of our “soul-forces” must be gathered together unto Jesus – centered upon Him – that His Spirit might work in us to bring forth fruit (*Gal. 5:22-23*). Jesus emphasized that only as we are *joined* to Him as the branch to the vine, and then adhere to, and *abide* in Him daily, can we *bear* the fruit produced by His life in us (*Jn. 15:1-8*). The *proof* of our discipleship is that we bear *much* fruit (*Jn. 15:8*).

The first fruit mentioned in *Galatians 5:22* is “*love*,” and in *John 13:35* Jesus declares: “*by this shall all men know that you are My disciples, if you have love one for another.*” Meditate much on *John 15:1-16*. For this very *purpose* have we been chosen – to *bear fruit* (*15:16*), which is actually the *progressive development* of Christ’s own very *nature* and *character* in us. In *Revelation 22:2*, we read of the “*tree of life*” bearing 12 fruits in us (count them in *Eph. 5:9*, *Gal. 5:22-23* and *Jms. 3:17-18*). Therefore Levi, and the number 3, is that of ‘adhesion’ OR ‘JOINING TOGETHER’. It is *ACTIVE UNITY* (“*abide in Me*” – *Jn. 15:4*; that is, “remain,” “continue,” “dwell”) by “gathering together” ALL of your soul forces in continuous FOCUS and meditation on Christ and His *Word*. Levi was the teacher of God’s Word by a special covenant (read carefully *Mal. 2:4-9* on the “Covenant of Levi”). Only by *increased* adherence and cleavage to Christ, the Living Word (cultivating a personal and close relationship with Him), and by increased study and meditation of the written Word (adhering in “Spirit” and in “Deed” to its revelation of truth), can increased fruit be produced in our lives to the praise of the Father’s glory (*Jn. 15:8*).

As the tribe chosen to minister to the Lord, the Levites were not “numbered” in the army, neither did they inherit any land, but were assigned 48 cities throughout all Israel. They did not cultivate any land, but were given “suburbs” around these cities for their cattle. At periodic times assigned to them, they had to dwell where the Tabernacle was (later the Temple) and minister in the sacred things of the Sanctuary. They were supported by the tithes of all the people (*Num. 18:21*). As especially chosen of God, the LORD was their

inheritance, for He had said "they are MINE" (*Num. 3:12, 43*). This is important, for the Levites were a *type* of *all believers* in Christ who *adhere* to Him as their Savior in varying degrees, and become the Lord's own *possession* (see *I Pet. 2:9* in the NAS Bible).

To better understand how God views those who "adhere" to Him, and the *degree* of nearness of their approach and relationship to Him, we need to see the 3 different categories of ministry of the Levites. First, the Levites in general ministered only in the Outer Court, as helpers of the priests. Secondly, the priests were a special group of Levites because only the sons of Aaron could be priests. One had to be *born* into that family to be a priest. The priests ministered not only in the Outer Court, but also in the Holy Place of the Tabernacle.

Finally, there was the High Priest – the first of whom was Aaron. The High Priesthood was hereditary, passing on to the firstborn son of the High Priest after his death, and so on down the line. The High Priest not only ministered in the Holy Place, but also once a year, on the Day of Atonement, he entered into and ministered in the Holy of Holies, wherein dwelt the Ark of the Covenant and the Shekinah Glory (read *Lev. 16*). The 3 groupings, as types of 3 categories of Christians, is confirmed in the New Testament. Note the following:

Other illustrations could be given such as the 3 decks (or levels) of Noah's ark (*Gen. 6:16*) and Noah's 3 sons: Shem, Ham and Japheth (*Gen. 6:10*), etc. But this is sufficient to give you a picture of this consistent pattern throughout Scripture.

In the chapter on the "Pearl of Great Price," I demonstrated from Scripture that the High Priest is not only a type of Christ, but also a type of that "Body" of overcomers who shall enter the "Holy of Holies" (which is a *type* of the New Jerusalem and the Heavenly Kingdom), where those who are given glorified bodies will reign with Christ as king-priests

after the Order of Melchizedek. These are the "100-fold," "full grain in the ear" Christians. Does a farmer take "blades," and "half-filled green ears" out of the field and into his storehouse? No, he leaves them in the *earth* to *ripen*. Even so the 30-fold (blade) and 60-fold (ear) Christians will have their lot on this earth in the coming Kingdom. Only those Christians who have sufficiently "matured," and have been *through the threshing floor (Matt. 3:12)* of God's *testings and dealings* (to remove the "chaff," so that none of the evil influences of the world still cleave to them), will be ready to be "gathered" into Jesus' heavenly "barn" (Kingdom) (*Matt. 13:30*). The Apostle James alludes to the need for such "maturing" under conditions of testing in *James 1:12*:

"Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial: for once he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life, which the Lord has promised to those who love Him."

One more thing. In the consecration of the Levitical priests to their ministry, the priests, the sons of Aaron (and Aaron himself) had some of the anointing oil *sprinkled* upon them by Moses (*Lev. 8:30*); but only Aaron, as the High Priest, had the anointing oil *poured* upon his head (*Lev. 8:12*). The priests, who had to be *born* into the family of Aaron, picture born-again (60-fold) Christians who have received a measure of the Holy Spirit (oil) in their initial regeneration. But the anointing oil *poured* on the head of Aaron would obviously be a *greater measure* than that which was sprinkled on the priests. The *pouring* of oil on the *head* is a type of the **Baptism** of the Holy Spirit. In the *Book of Acts*, the Baptism of the Holy Spirit is variously pictured as being "poured out upon," "coming upon," or "falling upon" those who received. It is the Baptism of the Holy Spirit that introduces into the *potential* of the 100-fold, and a "candidate" for the Heavenly calling and Kingdom.

Here, again, we see the importance of the meaning of the name of Levi ('adherence', or 'joining'), for it is through the sanctifying experience of the Holy Spirit Baptismal fire that

God does a purifying work in our hearts to the extent that we are enabled to “adhere” or “cleave” more *closely* to Him, coming into a more intimate relationship, where His Love and Presence increasingly become more real to us, because of that additional measure of His Spirit. This, in part, is the “extra oil” in the vessels (*Matt. 25:4*) of the wise virgins. Thus, by the time we reach the 3rd son, Levi, on the path of the overcoming life, we should have received this Baptismal experience.

If you have not received this experience, then adhere to the pattern of asking, seeking and knocking (*Lk. 11:9-10, 13*) patiently, but with persistence. Remember that with God, *delay* is *not denial*. God may want to intensify the hunger of your heart, test the intensity of your desire, bring you to a greater place of complete surrender, etc. Do not be anxious, but abide in “Jerusalem” (‘city of *peace*’) (*Lk. 24:49*), letting the sweet incense of your praises ascend from your heart and lips until He meets you, and your tabernacle is “sanctified by the glory of His Presence” (*Ex. 29:43*). But note carefully, just this experience alone does not fulfill the significance of Levi. As earlier explained, all *closer adhering* to Christ our Lord is to the end that *greater fruit* might be produced in our lives.

<i>Numbers 3:45</i> Levites	<i>Exodus 29:1-9</i> Priests	<i>Exodus 29:1-9</i> High Priest
<i>Exodus 27:9</i> Outer Court	<i>Exodus 26:23</i> Holy Place	<i>Exodus 26:23</i> Holy of Holies
<i>Matthew 13:23</i> 30-fold	<i>Matthew 13:23</i> 60-fold	<i>Matthew 13:23</i> 100-fold
<i>Exodus 16:1</i> 30 days	<i>Exodus 19:1</i> 60 days	<i>Exodus 19:1</i> 100 days
<i>Mark 4:28</i> Blade	<i>Mark 4:28</i> Ear	<i>Mark 4:28</i> Full grain in ear
<i>Luke 11:5</i> 1 loaf	<i>Luke 11:5</i> 2 loaves	<i>Luke 11:5</i> 3 loaves
<i>Luke 11:9</i> Ask	<i>Luke 11:9</i> Seek	<i>Luke 11:9</i> Knock
<i>Luke 11:11-13</i> Loaf	<i>Luke 11:11-13</i> Fish	<i>Luke 11:11-13</i> Egg



CHAPTER 4

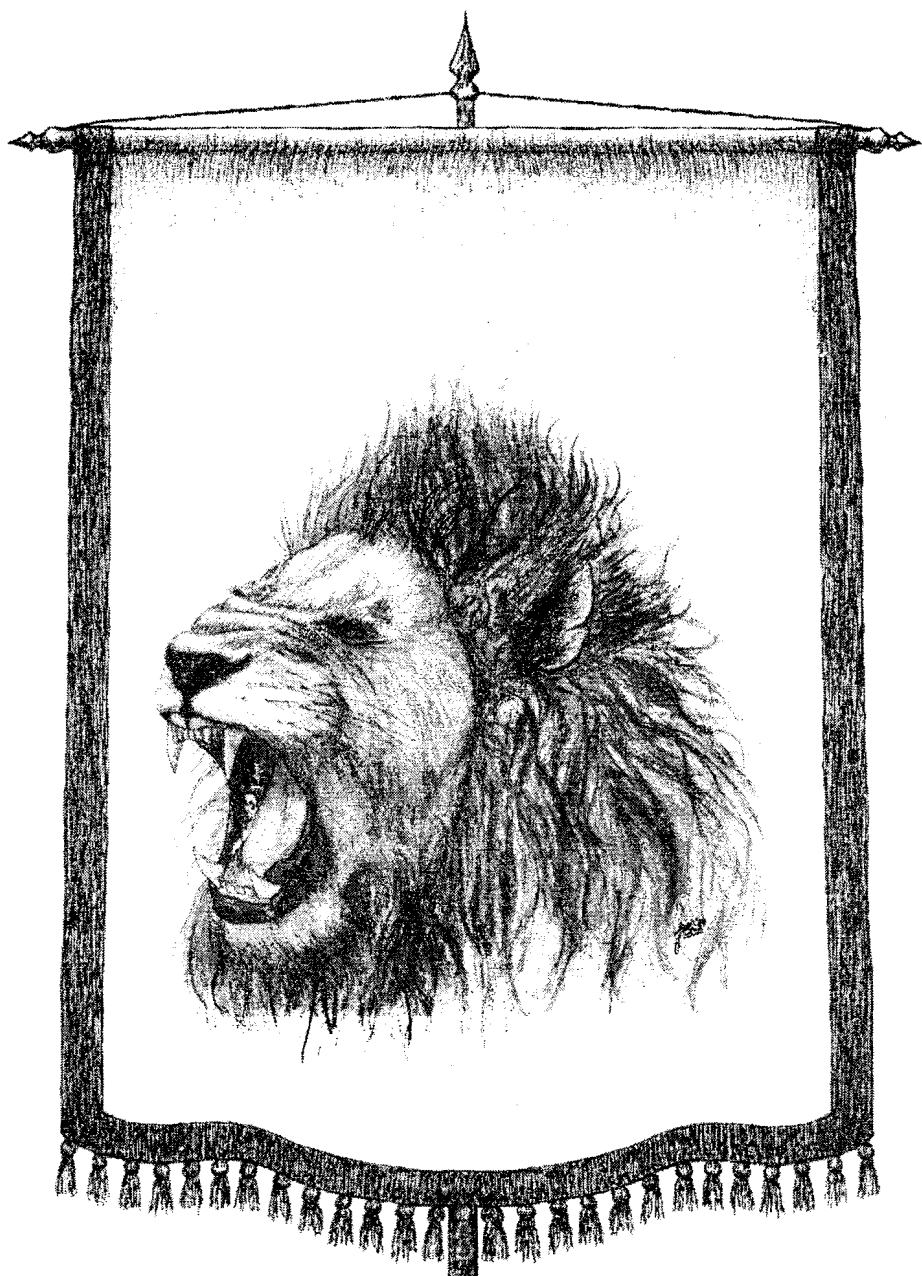
THE BIRTHRIGHT PORTION UNTO PRAISE

The names of the 12 tribes of Israel are written on the 12 gates of Pearl that open into that celestial city called the New Jerusalem (*Rev. 21:10-21*). In the first chapter on the “Pearl of Great Price,” I made it clear that only the “overcomers” shall enter the city. Since a name of each of the tribes of Israel is written on each of those gates, I believe we can see that God has given us a Divine pattern for the progression of the “overcoming life,” beginning with Reuben, who was Jacob’s firstborn, to Benjamin, who was the 12th of Jacob’s sons.

In the previous chapter I have dealt with the names of Reuben, Simeon and Levi. But before going on to Judah, Jacob’s 4th son, there is another truth relative to Levi that I wish to mention. This is more in the realm of a prophetic type, rather than that which relates to our individual experience as “overcomers,” yet I believe it will enhance your understanding of how God works in the process of dispensational selection in that which Paul refers to as: “first the natural and then the spiritual” (*I Cor. 15:46*).

This fits in with and illustrates that which I seek to demonstrate from the Scriptures in Chapter 9: “Divided Kingdom, the Elect Remnant and the True Israelites.”

Also, later on I will return to Levi in order to illustrate



JUDAH

"And she [Leah] conceived again, and bare a son: and she said, Now will I praise the LORD: therefore she called his name Judah; and left bearing."

Genesis 29:35

THE BLESSING OF JUDAH BY JACOB/ISRAEL

"Judah, thou art he whom thy brethren shall praise: thy hand shall be in the neck of thine enemies; thy father's children shall bow down before thee.

Judah is a lion's whelp: from the prey, my son, thou art gone up: he stooped down, he couched as a lion, and as an old lion; who shall rouse him up?

The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come; and unto him shall the gathering of the people be.

Binding his foal unto the vine, and his ass's colt unto the choice vine; he washed his garments in wine, and his clothes in the blood of grapes: his eyes shall be red with wine, and his teeth white with milk."

Genesis 49:8-12

THE BLESSING BY MOSES

"And this is the blessing of Judah: and he said, Hear, LORD, the voice of Judah, and bring him unto his people: let his hands be sufficient for him; and be thou an help to him from his enemies."

Deuteronomy 33:7

further truths of “overcoming,” because the tribe of Levi was chosen to serve the Lord and minister to Him in a special way in the service of the Tabernacle. There is an abundance of truth therein that relates to the “overcoming life.” But at present, I am dealing only with the names of the Tribes and their symbolic significance and I don’t want to deviate too much from that. As I pointed out before, in a patriarchal society, the “birthright,” given to the firstborn males, involved receiving a double portion of the Father’s inheritance, and also responsibilities relating to rulership and priesthood functions as head of the family or clan. However, when God chose Israel as His “firstborn” nation (*Ex. 4:22; Hos. 11:1*), He divided the birthright functions between three tribes: to Levi went the priesthood, to Judah went the rulership, and to Joseph went the double portion.

JUDAH

In our study of the “overcoming life” as depicted by the “names” of the Tribes of Israel, we now come to Jacob’s 4th son, Judah. When Leah gave birth to Judah she said:

“Now will I praise the Lord; therefore she called his name Judah.”

Genesis 29:35

Judah means to ‘acclaim’, ‘celebrate’, and thus to ‘praise’. How appropriate this is in our progression of thought, for the name of the previous son, Levi, means ‘to adhere to’. The more we ‘adhere to’ or are ‘joined’ more closely in spiritual unity to our Lord Jesus Christ, the more we want to praise Him. Praise is an audible (in “word” or “song”) expression of a grateful and rejoicing heart, lifted up in exalting and extolling the goodness of God – in all of His virtues, attributes, wonders and works.

Praise is such a vast subject, entire books have been written on it. Here, I can only touch on its main aspects and relate its importance to the “overcoming life.” The value

and importance of praise *and* worship (I will distinguish between the two later) in a person's relation to the Lord, and the powerful transforming influence they can have in one's life, was brought into prominence through the Prophet (and king) David, "the sweet psalmist of Israel" (*II Sam. 23:1*). We must remember that the revelation of God and His Ways did not come to Abraham and to the nation that sprung from him all at once. *Hebrews 1:1* declares that God "spoke long ago to the fathers in the Prophets in many portions and in many ways."

This is an historical study in itself and I cannot go into detail, but preceding David's development of the ministry of praise and worship, along with the increased use of musical instruments in this ministry, it was Samuel the Prophet who began to reveal "further portions" of the Lord's ways to Israel. Samuel was the most remarkable transitional character in the history of Israel. He was the last one of the Judges, and the first one in the ascending importance of the Prophets, whose ministries developed parallel to that of the Kings. It was no doubt that God used Samuel to "lay the groundwork" for the increased prominence of the ministry of praise and worship, with musical instruments. He evidently established "schools of the prophets" where the prophetic ministry was developed, and where the prophetic anointing was often accompanied with musical instruments in an atmosphere of praise to the Lord. We see glimpses of this in *I Samuel 10:5-6, 10; 19:20-21*. (See also *II Ki. 3:15*.) David was no doubt an "apt" pupil of Samuel. Being a skilled musician, and also a "man after God's own heart" (*I Sam. 13:14; Acts 13:22*), he no doubt as a youth began to yearn to express his aspirations after God, and as an anointed Prophet he began to move into the greater dimensions of praise and worship that he would later teach to Israel.

I want to say just a few words about the typical aspects involved in the lives of these men. The first king of Israel was Saul, whose name means 'asked for', and he reigned for 40 years. God gave them Saul because they 'asked for' a king. Saul is a type of the Law and the Law dispensation. God had

to “lay down the law” because the people ‘asked for’ it through disobedience. Enforced guidelines of conduct are necessary for those who are yet immature and carnal. Paul says “the Law is for the lawless” (*I Tim. 1:9*). Samuel is a type of Jesus Christ. Of Samuel it is said that he let none of the words which the Lord had given to him “fall to the ground” (or “fail”; *I Sam. 3:19*). As Samuel was a transitional character, even so was Jesus Christ the greatest transitional character of the Bible – bringing us out of the “old” into the “new.”

David, Israel’s second king, also reigned 40 years. David means ‘beloved’. Although David, like Samuel, is a type of Christ in many aspects of his life, he is also a type of the Christian dispensation. Solomon, Israel’s third king, also reigned 40 years. His name means ‘peace’, and he is a type of the Millennial dispensation of a thousand years of peace which will follow the Christian dispensation.

The *Book of Psalms* in our Bible is primarily the product of David’s experience in a new dimension of praise and worship. This is why the *Book of Psalms* is such a vital part of the life and experience of the church during this dispensation, for since David was to type the Christian dispensation, it was as though God allowed him to “reach forward” and “touch” in his own life and experience the very “spirit” of that which would manifest in greater reality and power following the beginning of the Christian era, when Christ’s very own life and power (through the ministry and indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit) would bring to *vital living* and ultimate *fruition*, the *Spirit*-energized ministry and experience of joyful praise and intimate worship in the lives of Spirit-filled Christians.

This is such a vast and important subject that it beggars description. We might better understand this subject by saying that there are three levels of expression which *release our spirit* unto God: (1) thanksgiving, (2) praise, and (3) worship; each ascending a little “higher,” and bringing us into a more intimate relationship to the Lord. We enter His gates

with thanksgiving, and then into His courts with praise (*Ps. 100:4*). Read all the *Psalms* and note that many are accompanied by great joy and gladness. But when it comes to worship we read: “*Come let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord our Maker*” (*Ps. 95:6*). Worship does not leave joy behind, but it does strike a deeper chord of devotion in our hearts and lifts us to a higher level of intimacy in our relationship to the Lord. We might say that thanksgiving is an acknowledgment of gratitude for something done. Praise is an extolling and magnifying of the Person (of the Lord) for Who He is, as well as for what He has done. Worship is “rapt adoration” in an intimate and holy “love tryst” with the Lover of our souls, accompanied by an absolute surrender of all of ourselves to Him. Such surrender can be symbolized by the expressions as to “bow” and to “kneel.” One can give thanks and even praise without full surrender, but worship can never be fully entered into without that full surrender (i.e., the self-conscious person finds it difficult to enter into real worship).

The “gate” is thanksgiving; the “entrance” to communion with the Lord is a grateful heart. From there we proceed to higher levels. Praise encompasses thanksgiving, but it takes us a step further. In praise we focus on the “doer,” as well as on what has been done. I could give a detailed study on the various words translated “praise” in the Scriptures, as well as other related words translated by English words such as extol, honor, magnify, bless, glorify, proclaim, etc., but you can get a concordance and make such a study yourself. Read much in the *Psalms*. Underline the word “praise” every time it appears, as well as other related words expressing the thought of praise. I want to simply list some practical benefits that accrue to us as we learn to live the “overcoming” life through praise. There are several such benefits that I choose to briefly comment on.

1. Praise gives us an opportunity to exercise our *will* in obedience to the expressed Will of God. Praise is not optional – God commands it! And whatever God commands, He gives us the grace to do (*Phil. 2:13*). I emphasize the

exercise of the “will” here, because although praise involves our feelings and emotions, we do not wait until we “feel” like it to praise the Lord. As a matter of fact, praise gives us an opportunity to “rise above” feelings that may be oppressing us or dragging us down. Too many Christians allow their feelings to “tyrannize” them – keep them “captive” to the *soul-ish* realm. Our “will” functions through *our spirit*, and God wants us to learn to keep our soul in *subjection to* our spirit. If we truly love the Lord, then we *want* to obey Him, but we must take the initiative in the exercise of our will in that obedience. In studying the *Psalms*, notice how often the Psalmist uses the expression “I will” when expressing his determination to praise the Lord. Just a couple of examples: “I will praise the Lord with my whole heart” (Ps. 111:1), and “I will bless the Lord at all times, His praise shall continually be in my mouth” (Ps. 34:1,3). We praise by faith, in response to the Word, and if we will faithfully do this, then God will be faithful to cause our feelings to be stirred to ever increasing heights of blessedness and joy in Him.

2. This leads naturally into the second benefit of praise I want to deal with. Praise is *one* way of helping us to *release* the joy of the Lord within us. When we receive Jesus as our Savior and are “born” of Him, then all that He is, including His joy, is in us. His purpose is that this joy not only remain or abide constantly, but develop to a “fullness” (Jn. 15:11).

Praise and joy cannot be separated. Praise might be called a “joyful acclamation” or even a “joyful celebration” of the Lord’s goodness. The Psalms are *filled* with the words “joy,” “joyful” and “rejoice.”

“Let the righteous be glad; let them rejoice before God: yea let them exceedingly rejoice.”

Psalms 68:3

“O come, let us sing unto the Lord: let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation. Let us come before His Presence with thanksgiving, and make a joyful noise unto Him

with Psalms."

Psalm 95:1-2

"I went to the house of God with the voice of joy and praise."

Psalm 42:4

These are just samples of dozens of such expressions in the *Psalms*.

There is no reason why Christians should not experience an abiding reality of the Lord's joy within. This can vary in degree and in various types of expression, but even in so-called unpleasant or adverse circumstances that joy should remain, because it is *not* dependent on any *outward* circumstances. Changing circumstances *do not change* what the Lord has put *within us*. But that joy can be "bottled up" by various inner mental-emotional attitudes and responses contrary to God's Word of Truth – unbelief, fear, bitterness, self-pity, an unforgiving spirit, unconfessed sin, self-will, disobedience, guilty conscience, etc. These matters cannot be dealt with here because they are beyond the scope of our subject.

But aside from these matters, I am fully convinced that many Christians (if not most) do not consistently experience the abiding reality of the joy of the Lord simply because they have not learned to "release" that joy through audible praise. When I say "audible," I do not mean it has to be loud. Almost any place you are (even while working) unless you are right next to another person, you can quietly praise the Lord – letting the "sweet incense" of your inner mental-emotional attitude of gratitude and joy ascend to the Lord, giving Him thanks for all His goodness; extolling and magnifying Him in all the beauty and wonder of the virtues and attributes that truly make Him the joy and delight of your heart.

3. The third value of praise in the "overcomer's" life is that it gets our "eyes" and attention *off* of ourselves and our problems and on the Lord Jesus, thus *helping* to turn us from self-centered, introverted, negative, self-pitying Christians, into Christ-centered, positive, optimistic, *non-self-centered*

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Christians, who are more concerned about meeting the needs and serving the interests of others than constantly thinking of “I,” “me” and what “I” want. By nature, carnal man is a negative, selfish, complaining person, whose thoughts are so centered on “self” that constant lapses into feelings of defeat, depression, self-pity, discouragement, etc., are as automatic and sure as life itself.

God’s purpose in providing the *faith, life and power* of Jesus Christ to dwell within us, is to *completely turn us around* – from negative to positive, from defeatist to victorious, from self-centered to Christ and “other-centered,” from *complaining to praising*. The limited scope of this section does not permit discussing all these factors, but simply to emphasize that praise is ONE important KEY in getting our lives “turned around.” Constant preoccupation with thoughts centered on self and one’s problems is a sure “passport” to disaster in one’s spiritual “walk” with the Lord. But deliberately begin to put into practice *Psalm 34:1*:

“I will bless the Lord at all times: His praise shall continually be in my mouth” –

or *I Thessalonians 5:18*:

“In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you” –

or *Hebrews 13:15*:

“By Him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to His Name” –

or *Philippians 4:4*:

“Rejoice in the Lord always; and again I say rejoice.”

Then experience how such preoccupation with glorifying the Lord will help to keep your attention focused on Him and help to “lift you” out of preoccupation with self and direct you to Him Who is Life, Peace, Victory, etc. See *Isaiah 26:3*.

I remember once when traveling I was passing through beautiful country: mountains, valley, trees, streams, etc. All was so lovely and “breathtaking” that it was hard to take it all in, even though one’s attention was fully taken up with viewing as much as possible. I was driving the car, and suddenly went through an area where an excessive number of “bugs” happened to be in the air. These, of course, began to frequently “splat” on the windshield. Soon, I found myself so preoccupied with watching these bugs hit the windshield that I completely forgot about the beautiful scenery through which we were passing, and which I was now completely missing.

This taught me the lesson of how easy it is to get our eyes on and be “taken up with” the things that personally “bug” us in our lives and circumstances. We then completely ignore the love, goodness, glory, beauty, and majestic blessings of the Lord that constantly are ours to behold (and praise Him for). Moreover, we fail to observe His overshadowing protection, providence, guidance and care for every area of our lives which should cause us to keep our “eyes” and attention focused on Him, rather than being preoccupied with the “little things” (in God’s sight) that constantly “bug” us. Such things cause us to “lose sight” of all that He is and all that He wants us to behold of Himself and His wondrous love-plan for us.

4. Another powerful benefit of praise is that it is one of our most powerful weapons of warfare. In *Psalms* 149:5-9 we read:

“Let them sing aloud upon their beds. Let the high praise of God be in their mouth, and a two-edged sword in their hand; to execute vengeance upon the heathen, and punishment upon the people; to bind their nobles with fetters of iron: to execute upon them the judgment written: this honor have all His saints. Praise ye the Lord.”

To the Old Testament saints the above referred to the use of literal swords in literal warfare against their physical enemies. But to us the “sword” we use is “*the sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God*” (*Eph. 6:17*), and our enemies are

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not flesh and blood, but Satanic hosts: wicked spirits (demons) who are the rulers of the darkness of this world (*Eph. 6:12*). But notice carefully, it is the *combination* of the “*high praises of God*” in our mouths, and the “sword” of the Word of Truth that gives us the victory.



CHAPTER 5

MORE ON PRAISE AND JUDAH

In this chapter I wish to share praise as it relates to our warfare. Jacob's 6th son was Naphtali, whose name means 'wrestling'. This deals with the whole subject of our spiritual warfare, which, as Paul indicates in *Ephesians 6:12*, is a 'wrestling' against "*principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.*" Naphtali prefigures many other "weapons" of spiritual warfare that God has given us that we might "overcome" in the might of His power. Therefore, before leaving Judah, I want to emphasize several more values of praise in the overcoming life. In the last chapter, I ended with the number 4, so now let us consider...

5. PRAISE IS FAITH IN ACTION

There is no power in faith unless it is expressed (as an evidence or proof) in either *word* or *deed* (or both). "*Faith without works* (divinely commanded action) *is dead*" (*Jms. 2:20, 26*). How do I really know if I have faith with reference to a certain promise or provision of God? If I can *sincerely* (from the heart) *praise* the Lord, with *hope* (confident expectation and joyful anticipation) for His answer or provision *before* it comes to pass, then faith is *evidenced* by that praise. Faith "*sees*" from *God's perspective*, and *visualizes* what He is going to do; then *confesses it as a present reality*. Note Jesus' words in *Mark 11:24*:

“Therefore I say to you, all things for which you pray and ask, believe that you have received them, and they shall be granted you.”

Faith “reckons” what is not, as though it already were (come to pass). In **Romans 4:17** we read that God “*calleth those things which be (or are) not as though they were.*” When God made His promise to Abraham, He said: “*I have made thee a father of many nations*” (**Gen. 17:5**). God considered it already done, even though Abraham did not even have a son at the time. Of Abraham, the Divine Record says:

“And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither the deadness of Sara’s womb. He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; and being fully persuaded that what he had promised, he was able also to perform.”

Romans 4:19-21

Notice, that he was “giving glory to God” – that is, *praising* Him for the promise *before* it came to pass.

Yes, PRAISE (thanking the Lord, magnifying the Lord, giving Him glory, honor, etc.) as though what He has promised has already been accomplished is the *language of faith*. In **Philippians 4:6** Paul says:

“In nothing be anxious, but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.”

A bird cannot ascend into the heavens if one wing is not functioning; it takes both wings. God has given us the *two* wings of *prayer* and *praise* that our spirits might “ascend” to Him. Hallelujah! So stop complaining and get that “wing” of PRAISE working. Start offering up the “sacrifice of praise continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to His Name” (**Heb. 13:15**), knowing that what He has promised He has already accomplished; and He will surely bring it to pass in your experience in His *own time and way*, as you steadfastly

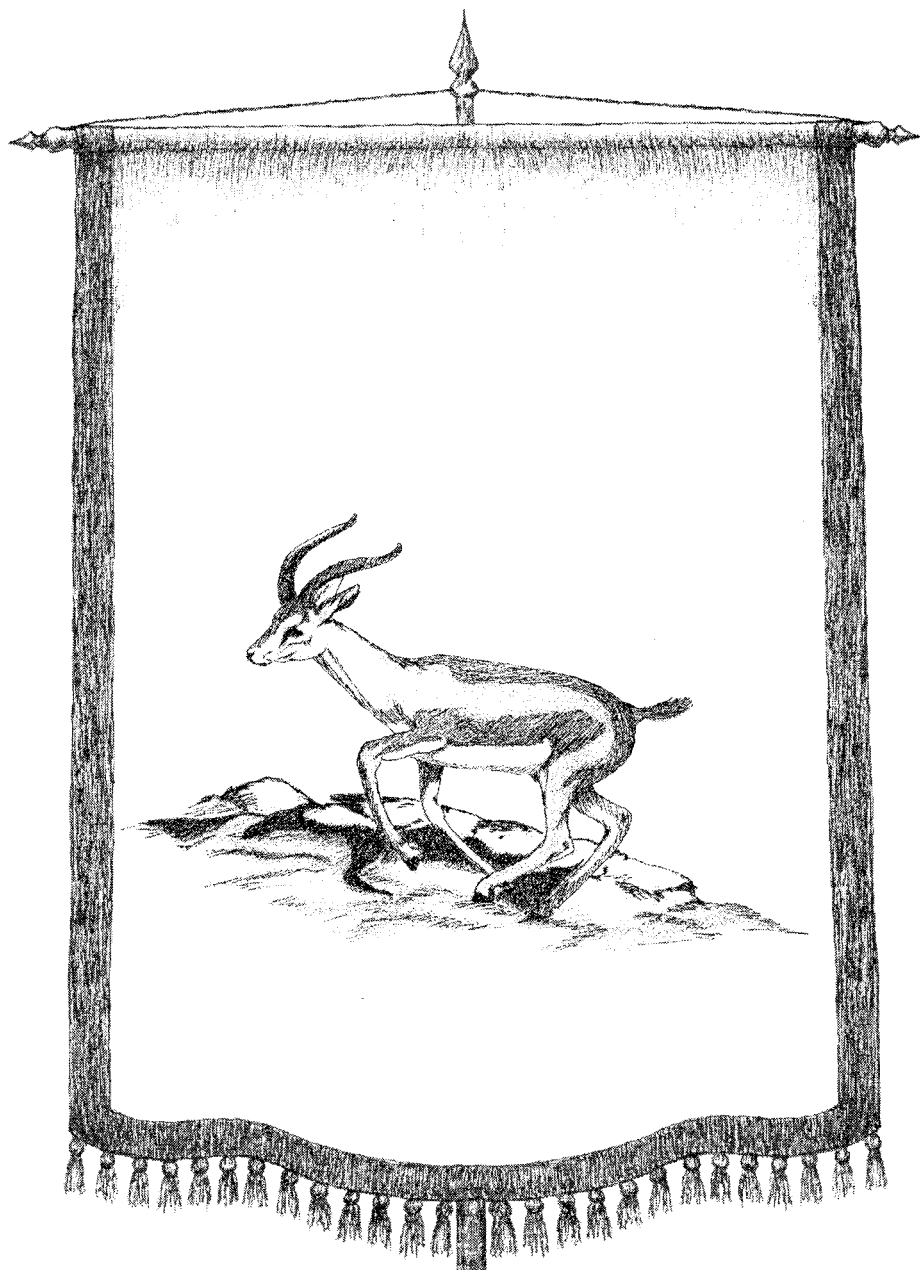
TRUST Him, and let the “language of faith” (praise) ascend to Him.

6. PRAISE IS THE PERFECT (GOD APPOINTED) COMPLIMENT TO PRAYER

This is a continuation of the previous point, but with a little different perspective and emphasis. I have already quoted Jesus’ words in *Mark 11:24*, that what things we ask for we are to believe that we have already received them. Now hear the words of the Apostle John in *1 John 5:14-15*:

“And this is the confidence which we have toward Him, that if we ask anything according to His Will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests which we have asked from Him.”

Now notice the logical progression of his thought: 1) First, we can have the confidence that if we *ask anything* according to His *will*, He *hears* us. 2) If we *know* that He has *heard* us, there is *no need* to *perpetually* ask, plead and beg. This is only an evidence of lack of faith (confidence) that He has heard us. What then do we do if the answer is not immediately forthcoming? We let the *language of faith* go into operation. We *praise* Him continually for the *fulfilled promise*, as if it were *already accomplished*. I do not mean we cannot ask more than once. The literal Greek translation of *Luke 11:9* is: “*Ask, and keep on asking....*” And both the parables of *Luke 11:5-13* and *Luke 18:1-8* teach the importance of “importunity” (persistence) in prayer. But there is a difference between praying in faith (inner rest and assurance), mixed with continual praise and worship, and the panicky, anxious, begging type of “praying,” and where the “language of faith” (praise) is not even heard. Continual pleading and begging only *drains* faith! Praise *builds* faith. Whenever thoughts of doubt come “nagging” that God has not been faithful, along with fears and worries or concern that there must be more and harder praying, with temptations to beg or plead, or even to “bar-



NAPHTALI

“And Bilhah Rachel’s maid conceived again, and bare Jacob a second son. And Rachel said, With great wrestlings have I wrestled with my sister, and I have prevailed: and she called his name Naphtali.”

Genesis 30:7-8

THE BLESSING OF NAPHTALI BY JACOB/ISRAEL

“Naphtali is a hind let loose: he giveth goodly words.”

Genesis 49:21

THE BLESSING BY MOSES

“And of Naphtali he said, O Naphtali, satisfied with favour, and full with the blessing of the LORD: possess thou the west and the south.”

Deuteronomy 33:23

gain” with God (if only He will answer), then immediately dismiss these thoughts and start praising, even rejoicing, that God *has heard* you, continuing to thank Him that it “is done” in His sight.

This raises some other questions which I cannot develop in detail here, but must mention in passing lest there be any misunderstanding. John says, as I quoted from *1 John 5:14-15*, that if we ask anything according to His Will, He hears us. God is “tuned in” to only one station – WILL (His Will). He doesn’t even hear anything else. Similar words are expressed by Jesus in *John 15:7*:

“If ye abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it shall be done for you.”

Obviously, if His Words are abiding (remaining, continuing, and “living”) in us, we are going to know His Will; and, praying accordingly, we can have the assurance that what we ask will be done. This is also contingent upon our “abiding in Him,” which means that we are continuing to live a life of obedience to Him, doing only that which is pleasing to Him, and certainly not deliberately doing anything that is contrary to His Will. Although not usually understood as such, Jesus expressed the same thought in *John 14:13-14*: “*And whatsoever you ask in My Name, I will do it.*” We must not grasp at the “letter” of what He says and not discern the “spirit” of the promise. How can we separate the Name of Jesus from the *Will* of the Father? The entirety of the mental-emotional-volitional forces of Jesus’ inner Being while on this earth were directed towards doing the Will of the Father. Nothing else mattered. Therefore, *His very Name “vibrated with” the Will of God the Father*, and thus even NOW “vibrates” *only TO* that Will. To ask “IN His Name” is synonymous with asking “in (according to) His Will.” The idea that a person who adds the expression “in Jesus’ Name” to the end of a prayer is fulfilling Jesus’ promise that anything asked “In His Name” will be done, is sheer foolishness. I’m not saying that we shouldn’t audibly say “in the Name of Jesus” when we pray; I believe we

should. But, if we fail to discern the SPIRIT of that expression, it can be but meaningless and vain repetition.

To the above explanation I would only add that we must have *faith in that Name*, for *Jesus* means “Jehovah is Savior.” That is, His Name indicates that He is our *complete* Savior – saving from whatever consequence, condition, circumstance, power or force that might be “against us.” His Name (spoken *in faith*, and *according to God’s Will*) carries with it the *power necessary* to take care of anything asked or spoken. That we *must believe*. This is so stated by Peter in *Acts 3:16* in his explanation of the healing of the lame man:

“And His Name through faith in His Name hath made this man strong...yea, the faith which is by Him hath given him this perfect soundness....”

(See also *Acts 4:10*.)

Since this is not intended to be primarily a lesson on prayer, I must again limit my remarks. But I’m sure the question arises: “how do I pray if I do not know God’s Will with respect to a particular problem or decision?” Apart from intimate familiarity with God’s Word, which communicates to us His Will, God has given us a helper – *the Holy Spirit*. In *Ephesians 1:17*, He is called “...*the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him* (of Christ).” And a part of that knowledge is the knowledge of Christ’s Will for us. Therefore, we can pray in faith for wisdom, for it is promised (*Jms. 1:5-8*), and we can trust the Lord to give us wisdom and revelation of His Will by the Spirit, IF we will diligently ask and seek for it (*Lk. 11:9; Heb. 11:6*) and will not “waver” in our faith (*Jms. 1:6*). Read carefully *I Corinthians, chapter 2*. I would recommend reading from the *AMPLIFIED VERSION* of the Bible. Note carefully *verses 9-12*. Although Paul is speaking about the Spirit revealing to us the “deep” things of God, even things prepared for us, the *principle* is the *same* as to the *Spirit’s ministry in making known* to us the “*mind*” (will) of Christ. Let me quote *chapter 2:10-12* from the *AMPLIFIED VERSION*:

“Yet to us God has unveiled and revealed them by and through His Spirit, for the (Holy) Spirit searches diligently, exploring and examining everything, even sounding the profound and bottomless things of God – the divine counsels and things hidden and beyond man’s scrutiny. For what person perceives (knows and understands) what passes through a man’s thoughts except the man’s own spirit within him? Just so no one discerns (comes to know and comprehend) the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. Now we have not received the spirit (that belongs to) the world, but the (Holy) Spirit Who is from God, [given to us] that we might realize and comprehend and appreciate the gifts (of divine favor and blessing so freely and lavishly) bestowed on us by God.”

And that includes the gift of His *Divine Wisdom* to know His will when we need it, even as Paul says in *chapter 2:16*:

“But we have the mind of Christ, the Messiah, and do hold the thoughts (feelings and purposes) of His heart.”

Providing, of course, that we are open, honest, and seeking for “His mind and purpose (His will).” The Amplified translation above is somewhat involved, so read it several times to grasp the truth.

There is one more way that our “helper” (the Holy Spirit) comes to our aid in prayer that I want to mention. Supposing you are in a “hard” situation, being tested very severely. You have *done all* that you know to do (of His Will). You have prayed for “wisdom” for any further decision you are to make, or direction you are to proceed. Yet, the “still, small voice” comes as you seek and meditate: “wait, hold still, be patient, and TRUST ME to work IN this situation, until My purpose is accomplished and I bring you THROUGH it, to the praise of My glory.” In such situations, *no action* is a better position than foolish, misguided, human action. No action, that is, except continued prayer and praise. Continued prayer for His *grace* and *strength* to “bear the burden of the trial” with rejoicing (*Jms. 1:2*). But in such times of prayer, not knowing just what to pray for or how (except that mentioned in the

preceding sentence), deep within the heart there can come “groanings”; because of the “depth” of the trial, and the “concern” that the outworking thereof is truly according to the Lord’s Will and for His glory. Here is where the Holy Spirit comes to our aid, for Paul says in *Romans 8:26-27*:

“And in the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness: for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words; and He Who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.”

Just think, the Holy Spirit intercedes for us by “translating” our “unutterable groanings” into the WILL OF GOD. We do not know how the Lord is going to work things out in the situation, but the Holy Spirit does, and he prays for us accordingly; that God’s Will might be done. To the above I would just add this thought: along with our deep “groanings” – when our soul is troubled because we do not know how to pray, we should follow the example of Jesus when His soul was troubled and He didn’t know how to pray (see *Jn. 12:27*). He simply uttered these words: “Father, glorify Thy Name” (*Jn. 12:28*). This is the “safest” way to pray, when we don’t know what else to say. Then wait in patience, and with much praise, until God goes into action on your behalf, and in a way that will ultimately bring great glory to His Name! Amen and Amen!

7. PRAISE HELPS US TO FULFILL OUR MINISTRY AS PRIESTS UNTO THE LORD

One of the most important Scriptural truths restored in the Protestant reformation was the “priesthood of all believers” (not just a special “caste” within the church). The priests of the Old Testament were chosen to minister UNTO the Lord on behalf of the people (*Ex. 28:1*). A part of their ministry was to offer the animal sacrifices on the altar, after the blood of the animal had been sprinkled upon the altar as an

atonement for their souls (*Lev. 17:6, 11*). In contrast to these natural sacrifices, the Apostle Peter reminds us that as priests we are to offer up “*spiritual sacrifices*,” as we read in *I Peter 2:5*: “*you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.*” The first, and most important, of those “acceptable sacrifices” is mentioned by Paul in *Romans 12:1*:

“*I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable (well-pleasing) unto God, which is your reasonable service (worship).”*

The presenting of our “bodies” (our “whole being” – all of ourselves), is the spiritual fulfillment of the typical offering in the Old Testament known as the “*whole burnt offering*.” It was the only animal sacrifice in which the entire animal was burnt on the altar. In all the other animal sacrifices, *only the fat*, and those *entrails* upon which the fat particularly gathered, were burned upon the altar (see *Lev. 3:3-5, 4:8-10*). There are *two lessons* we need to learn here. *First*, the whole burnt offerings were offered by the priests *every day*, one in the morning and one in the evening; and thus provided a *perpetual burning* upon the altar; for the fire was never to go out (see *Ex. 29:38-42, Lev. 6:9,13*). Thus the whole burnt offering provided the *foundation* for all of the other offerings: for the *fat* and *entrails* of the other sacrifices had to be *placed* (and burnt) *ON* the whole burnt offering. The *first* lesson for us is that *Romans 12:1, the presenting of ourselves completely unto the Lord as a “living sacrifice,” provides the foundation for all other offerings and sacrifices* we make unto the Lord. Without this daily “whole burnt offering” commitment to the Lord and His Will, our other offerings cannot be “acceptable” (well-pleasing) in His sight.

The second lesson is that which we learn from the *fat* and *entrails* of the other sacrifices which were placed *on* the whole burnt offering. Fat is essentially *oil*, and oil is a *type* of the *Holy Spirit*. The *entrails* which were burned *with* the *fat* speak

THE PEARL OF GREAT PRICE

of every *inner carnal desire or impulse* which is not pleasing to the Lord. Since these were burned *with* the fat, it tells us that *with* (or *by*) the *power* of the Holy Spirit, we can *put* every inner mental-emotional thought or desire that is base, deceitful, covetous, envious, hateful, etc., on God's altar, *based upon* the *foundation* of the *commitment* of our "bodies" (lives) to God and to His Will, trusting God to "consume" it by the "fire" of His Spirit.

I cannot here go into the meaning of all of the sacrifices and offerings. I will only mention the sacrifice of the *peace offering*, for that relates to our subject – PRAISE. The peace offering speaks of *fellowship* and *communion* with God. It was the only sacrifice (after the fat and entrails had been offered on the altar) that the offerer himself (his family, friends, etc.) actually *ate* (animal) in a *festival of joyful thanksgiving* to God. Here let me quote from my booklet, **THE GOD OF PEACE**:

"The eating of the sacrificial meal of the peace offering served as a memorial to the Israelites of the institution of the covenant between God and themselves (a covenant in the East being ordinarily ratified by the parties to it eating together), and that reminded them of the blessings thence derived, which naturally called forth feelings of joyous thankfulness; while it prefigured the peace wrought for man by the sacrifice of Christ, through which he has communion with God."

Get **THE GOD OF PEACE** – it will enlighten and bless you. [*Available from Shepherdsfield Publishers.*]

"Praise" is called a "sacrifice" in the Scriptures. And, if we are to *fulfill* our ministry as *Priests* unto the Lord, we must "offer up" our praises, which are part of our *fellowship* and *communion* with God. In *Hebrews 13:15* we read:

"Through Him then, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that give thanks to His Name."

The Prophets of the ●ld Testament saw beyond just the natural sacrifices to their true spiritual meaning and fulfill-

ment. Note the following Scriptures:

"I will freely sacrifice unto Thee: I will praise Thy Name, O Lord; for it is good."

Psalm 54:6

"O that men would praise the Lord for His goodness, and for His wonderful works to the children of men! Let them sacrifice the sacrifices of thanksgiving and declare His works with rejoicing."

Psalm 107:22

"I will offer to Thee the sacrifice of thanksgiving, and will call upon the Name of the Lord."

Psalm 116:17

"Thus saith the Lord; again there shall be heard in this place...the voice of joy, and the voice of gladness...the voice of them that shall say, Praise the Lord of hosts: for the Lord is good; for His mercy endureth for ever: and of them that shall bring the sacrifice of praise into the house of the Lord...."

Psalm 33:10-11

There are other "spiritual sacrifices" that we are to offer as priests, but that is beyond the scope of this book.

8. PRAISE BRINGS THE PRESENCE OF GOD

In *Psalm 22:3* we read:

"But Thou art holy, O Thou that inhabitest the praises of Israel."

The Hebrew word translated "inhabitest" in the King James Bible, literally means 'to dwell, abide or remain in; even to settle down in'. The Lord is with us at all times, for He said: *"I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee"* (*Heb. 13:5*). We accept that as a fact, by faith, irrespective of what our senses may try to tell us, and irrespective of our feelings. However, there are times when we become "aware" of His Presence, as He manifests (*Jn. 14:21*) Himself to us by the Holy Spirit (*Jn. 14:15-18, 16:13-15*). In such times, there is a "moving" or "quicken-

ing” of His Spirit within, which so “heightens” our mental, emotional and spiritual faculties that we are “lifted” out of the realm of the ordinary to the “super-ordinary.” This can *vary* from little to great depending upon a number of factors that I cannot take time to go into here. It may vary from a “quiet sense” of inner oneness with the Lord, with His peace, tranquility, and love seeming to penetrate and saturate every part of our inner being (*Rom. 5:5*), to an almost “overwhelming sense” of ecstatic exuberance – even “joy unspeakable and full of glory” (*I Pet. 1:8*). I have found that whether in private devotion or in the public assembly of the saints, it is when we *lift up* the Lord – *exalt* and *magnify* Him through the *outflowing* of *praise*, *adoration* and *worship*, that He *manifests His Presence* (glory) to us through the ministry of the Holy Spirit. Did not James instruct us: “*Draw nigh to God, and He will draw nigh to you*” (*Jms. 4:8*)?

The Glory-Presence of the Lord first came upon the assembled disciples on the day of Pentecost. They were told to wait in Jerusalem until they received the “*promise of the Father*” (*Acts 1:4*) which was the promised “coming upon” with power of the Holy Spirit. *Acts 1:14* says that they “*continued with one accord in prayer and supplication*” as they waited. The word translated “prayer” in this passage is from a Greek word which simply means ‘oratory’. It is a general word indicating any “oral expression” and can include the outpouring of praise and worship, as well as what we ordinarily think of as prayer. “Supplication,” on the other hand, is from a Greek word which means a ‘specific request or petition’ – in other words, more specifically what we call prayer. Thus it was *when* they were *engaged in all forms* of “*pouring forth*” unto God (including praise and worship) that the *presence* of the Holy Spirit came upon them. There were 120 gathered that day who were literally “baptized” (immersed – saturated) with the fiery presence of the Lord. A great “key” for them was the “one accord” in prayer, praise and worship. Also for us.

There is a *type* of this found in the Old Testament at the dedication of Solomon’s Temple. In *II Chronicles 5* we read

of the priests placing the Ark of the covenant in the Holiest place, as the final act of the Temple's completion. Beginning with *verse 11* we read as follows:

"And it came to pass, when the priests were come out of the holy place: (for all the priests that were present were sanctified, and did not then wait by course: also the Levites which were the singers, all of them of Asaph, of Heman, of Jeduthun, with their sons and their brethren, being arrayed in white linen, having cymbals and psalteries and harps, stood at the east end of the altar, and with them an hundred and twenty priests sounding with trumpets:) it came even to pass, as the trumpeters and singers were as one, to make one sound to be heard in praising and thanking the LORD; and when they lifted up their voice with the trumpets and cymbals and instruments of musick, and praised the LORD, saying, For He is good; for His mercy endureth for ever: that then the house was filled with a cloud, even the house of the LORD; so that the priests could not stand to minister by reason of the cloud: for the glory of the LORD had filled the house of God."

II Chronicles 5:11-14

Notice the parallels. Solomon's Temple, made of literal stones, was ready to be filled with the glory of the Lord's Presence after much preparation. In *Acts chapter 1*, the "living Temple," made of "*lively* (living) *stones*" (*I Pet. 2:5*), was ready, after much preparation by Jesus, to be filled with the glory of His Presence. There were *120* of the Old Covenant priests, of the Aaronic order, sounding with trumpets when the glory filled Solomon's Temple. There were *120* New Covenant priests of the Melchizedec order (*Heb. 5:10*), lifting up their voices as trumpets when the glory filled the "living Temple." Beloved, you have a Trumpet; your *voice* is that Trumpet (see *Isa. 58:1; Rev. 1:10, 4:1*). If you want to experience the Presence of the Lord, learn to use that voice in glorifying and magnifying the Lord. Lift up your *voice*, with your *heart* and your *hands* (see *Lam. 3:41, Ps. 141:2*). Let your love and adoration ascend unto the Lord as "sweet incense," in an attitude of complete surrender. Whether in your private

devotions, or in assembly with other saints, your praise and worship “*prepares the way*” for the manifestation of the Lord’s Presence. Notice in the above account, with reference to Solomon’s Temple, that when the trumpeters and singers were *as one*, to make *one sound* to be heard in praising and thanking the Lord, that the Lord manifested His glory. We read that the disciples in **Acts 1:14** were in *one accord* in “pouring forth” and supplication. When saints get together in true UNITY of the Spirit in the “*bond of peace*” (**Eph. 4:3**), and truly praise and worship the Lord the **Bible way**, I can assure you that there will be “*times of refreshing...from the Presence of the Lord*” (**Acts 3:19**).

I realize that the outpouring of the Spirit upon the waiting disciples in Acts was an *initial* experience which was *not* to be *repeated* in the *same* manner or degree. Likewise when each of us receives our individual “baptism” or “infilling” of the Holy Spirit, we experience the Glory-Presence that is not likely to be repeated in just the same way. However, I do believe the Lord wants us to continue to experience His Presence, and I have been using the Old Testament type of Solomon’s Temple and the New Testament fulfillment, as well as related Scriptures, to *set forth principles* which enable us to “draw near” to God, that he might “draw near” to us, in order to *bless* us, *refresh* us, *empower* us; yes, and even to *cleanse* and *deliver* us when needed. There is nothing that can compare with the joy of experiencing the Lord’s Presence.

“In Thy Presence is fullness of joy; at Thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.”

Psalm 16:11

And truly, Judah (praise) is one of the great “keys.”

9. LAST, BUT CERTAINLY NOT LEAST...

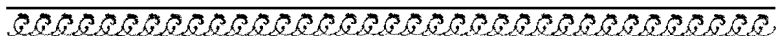
We praise our wonderful Lord because He is *worthy to be praised*. In the previous points, I was emphasizing the *practical* benefits of praise. But the real “*heart*” of the matter is His “worthiness.” We have a beautiful symbolic picture pre-

THE PEARL OF GREAT PRICE

sented to us in *Revelation chapter 5*, where Jesus is seen as a slain Lamb, and the only One worthy to open a certain “sealed” book, held in the right hand of Him Who sat on the Throne. After the “Lamb” takes the book, John says:

“And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the Throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands; saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honor, and glory, and blessings.”

He is worthy because of WHO He is and because of WHAT He has done (for our redemption), and the more we KNOW Him, the more we become aware of His “worthiness,” and the more we WANT to praise and worship Him. It is the product of a *growing love-relationship* that becomes more precious and meaningful all the time. It is the very “breath” of our *spiritual life*. Amen and Amen!



CHAPTER 6

MORE ON JUDAH AND THE 4th DAY OF CREATION. A LOOK AT THE TRIBE OF DAN

We have considered Judah and the importance of praise in the overcomer's life, but before leaving Judah, it would be well to show a correspondence between this 4th son of Jacob and the 4th day of Creation, even as I have done with the first 3 sons and the first 3 days of Creation. This correspondence can be seen because God is consistent with His pattern of truth, and the message that He conveys through numbers.

It is no accident that Judah's name means to 'acclaim' or 'praise', for from Judah, after the flesh, *came Jesus Christ*, Whom we 'acclaim' as our *Savior and Lord*, and then 'praise' with all of our hearts, voices, lips, tongues, hands, etc. Also, it is no accident that what God did on the 4th day of His creative activity had to do with "ruling" of heavenly bodies in relation to the earth, for out of Judah came the "ruling house" of Israel, even the "house" of king David. And Jesus, as a descendant of the house of David, inherited the Throne of that "house," to rule over Israel forever (*Lk. 1:31-33*).

Before looking at the symbolic "ruling" of the 4th day, let's tie the 4th day back into the 3rd in order to show the symbolism of "fruitfulness" that must be associated with the number "4". It is only through being joined to Jesus (Who came from Judah, Jacob's 4th son), as the branch to the vine, that we can

bring forth 'fruit' that is pleasing to God (*Jn. 15:1-8*). On the 3rd day, we read that vegetation of various kinds began to spring forth from the earth, even some that would eventually yield fruit for animal and human life that would be created (*Gen. 1:11-13*).

But what God did on the 4th day was *necessary* for that which was springing forth on the 3rd day to come to *full fruitfulness*. Let me quote from *Genesis 1:14-15*:

"And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to divide the day from the night: and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years: and let them be for lights in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth."

Certainly *light* (and *heat*) would be absolutely necessary for growth to come forth and come to *fullness of fruit*. I do not believe that God created the lights (sun and moon) on the 4th day, for the word 'create' is not used. The word translated 'create' is from the Hebrew word '*bara*', which means to 'bring forth' out of nothing. It is used only in *Genesis 1:1*, and then not again until *Genesis 1:21* and *27* where it speaks of God creating animal life and then human life on the 5th and 6th days.

After "creating" the "heavens and the earth" in *Genesis 1:1* (which would include the sun, moon and stars), there is described on "days" 1 through 4 the process whereby the power of God gradually prepared the earth to sustain life. After "creating" the earth, we read in *verse 2* that the earth was "*without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep.*" The Hebrew word translated "void" simply means to be 'empty' (that is, no life on it). The Hebrew word translated "without form" means 'a waste, or desolation': that which cannot sustain life. At this stage the earth was no doubt a "ball" of hot gaseous matter, with certain gases also joining to begin to form "waters" (*1:2*). Then God began to "move" (hover over and exert power upon) to prepare the earth that it might sustain life.

On the 4th day, God simply said: "*Let there be lights in the firmament,*" which, from the perspective of one who might be viewing from the surface of the earth, could indicate that they appeared or became visible for the first time. No doubt the vast "cloud banks" of gases and water-vapors which had shrouded the earth from the time that it began to cool, were gradually dissipated, so that the light and heat of the sun could shine more *fully* and *directly* on the earth. This, of course, was necessary for "fruit" to develop and come to fullness. Since God on the 4th day regulated the ordinances of heaven in relationship to the earth and its fruitfulness, the number "4" becomes our first and basic *earth* number (the Scriptures speak of the four corners, four winds, four directions, etc., of the earth). And since God uses the natural as a type of the spiritual, He expects *fruit* (the "*fruits of the Spirit*" – *Gal. 5:22-23*), to be developed in our lives while *on this earth*, and *IN* these *earth bodies*. This is a part of the "overcoming life" which is so necessary if we are to gain the prize of the "higher calling."

The number "4" is also the *square* of the number "2". It is the first number which is a true MULTIPLE of another number (again, emphasizing the increase of fruitfulness). In the chapter in which we were dealing with Jacob's second son, Simeon (which means 'hearing'), you will remember that the number "2" is the number of discernment, dividing, separating (between right and wrong) and increased "screening" of every thought and motive. Thus with 2 *squared*, we have the first *mathematical demonstration* God has given us for His goal for us: namely, that the SCREENING which DIVIDES between good and evil is "*raised*" to a "*higher power*," affecting all of our thoughts, words, attitudes, and conduct. Then increased FRUITFULNESS is achieved, resulting in greater PRAISE unto our wonderful Lord.

There is another reason given for the ordinances of heaven in relation to the earth than that of light (and heat) and seasons, that fruit might be brought forth. It is stated in *Genesis 1:14-18*:

“And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years: and let them be for lights in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth: and it was so. And God made two great lights: the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night...and God set them in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth. And to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness....”

The word “made” in *verse 16* does not mean to create. As pointed out before, they had already been created in *Genesis 1:1*. The Hebrew word translated “made” is given a wide range of applications, such as “accomplish, appoint, bestow, charge of, commit, execute, fulfill, furnish, govern, grant, etc.” Thus we can see that the word indicates that which is in harmony with that which God determined for the sun and moon, that of “ruling,” and that *purpose* is described as being exercised more fully in God’s *timing* on the 4th day.

Now let’s focus in on the word “signs.” In relation to the Earth, the sun and moon were placed for signs. A “sign” is designed to convey a *message in symbolic form* – that we might term “picture language.” It is extremely important to realize that God has designed the entire physical Creation to portray “object lessons” of spiritual truths. First the natural, and then the spiritual, is God’s order (*I Cor. 15:46*) as far as our *learning process* is concerned. However, from God’s perspective, in His “eternal design,” the spiritual truths and laws come first; then He created all natural things to help us understand just how His “world” of spiritual realities functions. In *Romans 1:20*, we read that,

“...the invisible things of Him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead.”

However, it is an interesting (and sometimes tragic) commentary on human nature, that God’s “sign language” through nature leads people to understand the reality of God

and His spiritual truths only if their hearts are “open” to perceive the “hidden truths” objectified in nature. What God has designed to help our understanding becomes only a “riddle” to those whose “inner eyes and ears” are simply *not open* to receive the truth and realities of the eternal and spiritual Kingdom of God. Jesus emphasized this repeatedly. When speaking in “parables,” Jesus “couched” spiritual truths of the Kingdom in the language of nature; the material creation all about Him. But the use of such “sign” language only obscured and hid the truth from those who were not ready for it. Of such, He said,

“I speak to them in parables: because they seeing see not; and hearing they hear not, neither do they understand.”

Matthew 13:13

But to His disciples, those who were ready to receive, He said:

“Blessed are your eyes, for they see: and your ears, for they hear.”

Matthew 13:16

Someone has aptly put it this way: “The language of nature (or creation) becomes the language of the symbol. The language of the symbol becomes the language of redemptive, spiritual truth, which is God’s “secret code” for “hiding” or “revealing” the truth according to the attitude of the listener.”

With this in mind, let us consider again the sun and the moon, which God said were “made” (appointed) for “signs,” and see if our “attitude” is receptive enough that we can “translate” into understanding these objects of God’s Creation, and “see” the truth that God is seeking to convey. God specifically states that the sun and moon were appointed to RULE the day and night. It isn’t any accident that on the 4th day, God emphasized RULING, for Jesus, Who came from Jacob’s 4th son (Judah) was born to be a RULER and KING (*Lk. 1:32-33, Jn. 18:37*). *Genesis 1:16* says that the “*greater light*” (the *sun*) was to “rule” the day. Jesus likened His ministry on this

earth to “day.” In *John 8:56*, Jesus spoke saying:

“Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day: and he saw it, and was glad.”

Jesus also likened Himself to the light of the sun, saying:

“I am the light of the world: he that followeth Me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.”

John 8:12

(See also *Jn. 1:4-9*.)

Now I will quote a statement by Jesus that contains a most remarkable prophecy:

“I must work the works of Him that sent Me while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.”

John 9:4-5

Jesus boldly declared that His physical manifestation in this world was as the light of the sun, causing it to be day. But with His *departure*, it would be as the *setting* of the sun, with darkness eventually coming. History testifies to the fact that what Jesus said was true.

Here is a truth that few have understood. The success of the early church was due to the fact that it functioned in the “twilight” that remained after Jesus (the sun) had departed. It is a fact of nature that when the sun “sets,” considerable light remains for a period of time, with the evening shadows gradually merging into darkness. This is exactly what happened in church history. The initial “glory-light” of the church was the result of the remaining “afterglow” of the brilliance of Jesus being in the world. But He warned of a “darkness” that would come after His “day” of manifestation was over. We know that in the natural, darkness does not come suddenly after the sun sets; but rather, gradually, as the light fades and the “shadows lengthen.” Although spiritual apostasy (“falling away” from the truth – see *II Thess. 2:3*) had begun even before the deaths of Jesus’ chosen Apostles, it took many

years before the decline of the church had reached the point that the “night” of spiritual darkness fully descended and began its long “reign.”

The Apostle Paul warned that after his departure, “grievous wolves” would enter the church, “not sparing the flock”; and he even warned that among the church’s own leadership, men would arise, “speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them” (*Acts 20:29-30*). Having lost her “first (primary) love” for Jesus Christ, the church began to “flirt” with many “other loves” – pride, position, power, compromise with the world, acceptance, praise of men, pomp and ceremony, etc. However, almost 200 years of persecution kept the church from being wholly unfaithful to her Lord. But in the early years of the 4th century, the persecutions were stopped by official Roman decree, and shortly thereafter the church succumbed to the enticements of the Roman State, and an unholy, adulterous union was made between church and state, with Christianity becoming the official religion of the Roman Empire. The “lengthening shadows” of the “twilight” period had come. Before many years had passed, the church was rapidly plunging into the Stygian darkness of night. The “night” that Jesus had prophesied would come, after His “day” was over, descended upon the world.

We now come to the second factor in the “sign language” of the 4th day of Creation. *Genesis 1:16* says that the “**lesser light**” (the moon) was to “**rule**” the night. As the sun was a type of Christ, so is the moon a type of the Church. It was never Christ’s intention for the Church to “rule” at any time, for as a wife is to be in submission to her husband, so is the Church to be in submission to Christ (*Eph. 5:22-24*). But God’s “sign language” on the 4th day of Creation was to reveal what would take place prophetically/historically beginning in the 4th century A.D., not what His “ideal” is.

And “rule,” the Church did – and how! The pages of history are filled with the tragedies of this abnormality. So “meager” was the light, that historians have aptly called this period the “Dark Ages.” And in the natural, how meager is the

light of the moon in comparison with the brilliance of the sun. Not only that, but the moon, not having any light of its own, reflects a small portion of the light of the sun, and also projects its own "image" with that light. This is exactly what happened in Church history. The Church projected ITSELF, rather than CHRIST. The priestly caste taught that the *salvation* of men's souls was dependent upon *church membership*, sacraments, penance, liturgies, holy water, indulgences, and much other "mumble-jumble" too numerous to go into, rather than a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

What, you may ask, has all this to do with the "overcoming life"? It has *much* to do with it, so please read what follows carefully. First, let us look at some practical applications prophetic to the day in which we are living. We are NOW LIVING in the DAWNING of a NEW DAY. The "rule" of the sun (Christ) is returning. This means that in God's sight, and in His plan, the long night of "darkness" for His people is OVER. And it also means that the "rule" of the MOON (man's rule), through his man-made denominational and ecclesiastical structures, with man-appointed officials, potentates, superintendents (or whatever else they might be called), with their man-made "rules," "lording" it over God's heritage (**Matt. 20:25, I Pet. 5:3**), is also OVER. The new day now dawning is called in the Scriptures, "**The Day of the Lord**," and always associated with this "**Day of the Lord**" is the *twofold process of fullness of judgment* on everything that is not of God, and the *fullness of Redemption* for the saints of God. The entire **Book of Revelation** from **chapter 4** to the end is a dramatic description of this twofold process.

The Apostle Peter tells us in **I Peter 4:17** that "*judgment must begin at the house of God.*" This is why everything in present-day 'churchianity' that is man-originated, man-made and man-maintained, is having a difficult struggle surviving: because God's judgment is upon all the ways and works of man. Scores of statistics reveal the tremendous loss and decline among both Catholic and Protestant organizations and institutions. On the other hand, that which is God-originated,

Christ-ruled and Holy Spirit empowered, is increasing and prospering (as used in the sense of God's standard of "success" – not man's; see **Lk. 16:15**). You can be sure that all that is of God will be TESTED (yes, even persecuted), but that is God's way of determining and demonstrating its *genuineness*; as well as making sure that it will be *purged* and *kept pure*. One of the most important commands to those who have "ears to hear," and who are responding to the truth of God's new day is found in **Revelation 18:4**:

"Come out of her, My people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues."

The "her" of this verse is the "great whore" of **Revelation 17:1-6**, who has a name written on her forehead: **"Mystery, Babylon the Great."** "Babylon" links with 'confusion', and this woman is symbolic of all the apostate, religious confusion that has prevailed down through this age as a result of UN-FAITHFULNESS to the Lord. The "spirit" which motivates her, and which has caused the "darkness" of this age, with the MOON (the "flesh" of man) ruling instead of Jesus Christ, is found in **Revelation 18:7**:

"How much she hath glorified herself, and lived deliciously (sensuously – luxuriously, with many "lovers")...for she saith in her heart, I sit a queen...."

Notice the "I" spirit, and self-glorification. This is the essence of the spirit of "Babylon" (see **Gen. 11:4, Dan. 4:29-30**).

If we truly believe that we are in the dawning of a new day, then we will want to come out of everything that is not Christ-honoring, Christ-glorifying, with Jesus Christ (the "sun") RULING as absolute LORD of every aspect of our lives, and absolute HEAD of the church which is His BODY. The church, as God envisions it, is seen in **Revelation 12:1**. This woman is in stark contrast to the woman of **Revelation 17** and **18**. She is the church of the "new day" for she is "clothed with the sun" (Jesus Christ), which means she is literally enveloped in His love, glory, power and dominion (in complete submission to

Him). Whereas the moon, the soulish spirit of self-exaltation, is under her feet – that is, it has been completely conquered. On her head is a “crown” of 12 stars. This is the “overcomers crown,” first to be received by the “manchild” company just before the Great Tribulation begins, and then by the entire “overcoming” glorious church at the Tribulation’s close. The “stars” symbolize the celestial (heavenly), glorified bodies which will adorn these translated or resurrected saints (*I Cor. 15:40-41*).

Finally, if you are entering into the blessed light (truth) of the glorious dawning of this new day of Christ’s RULE, something very precious is happening in your heart. Peter tells about it in *II Peter 1:19*:

“We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts.”

Peter explains that all down through the long night of spiritual darkness, there was the “sure word of prophecy”? With its assurance and encouragement that there would come a new day of Christ’s victory and RULE. Such prophecy would be as a “guiding light” to those going through extremely difficult times suffering under the bigoted tyranny of the ecclesiastical RULE of the MOON, in “unholy union” with the STATE. But that prophecy which was as a “guiding light” UNTIL the “day dawn” IS NOW BEING FULFILLED BEFORE OUR VERY EYES, proving that God’s new day has arrived in its dawning stage. And Peter mentions that which is a unique feature of the dawning of a day in the natural – the appearance in the eastern horizon of the bright and morning star. Showing its spiritual significance, Peter says that this “day star” (Christ – see *Rev. 22:16*) will “arise in our hearts.” What does this mean? It means that for those who are responding to the “light” (truth) of this new day, and are “pressing forward” in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ in greater fullness (*Phil. 3:8, Eph. 3:17-19*), that an increased reality of love union in Christ is becoming evident – that in greater

depth we are experiencing the truth of His words as recorded in *John 14:20*: “ye in Me, and I in you.” Yes, there are trials, pressures, and sometimes even sufferings, for we must realize that the Lord is preparing and “polishing” His “jewels” (*Mal. 3:17*). But none of these things “move us” (see *Acts 20:24*) in our determination to “press on” – for through all these experiences which the Lord sees are a necessary part of His preparing work, there is a “rising within” of HIM, Who “**IS OUR LIFE**” (*Col. 3:4*), in joyful anticipation of the “glory that shall be revealed in us” (*Rom. 8:18*) because of the “increased fusing” of our lives with HIS.

Not only does Peter speak of the “day star arising in our hearts” in the dawning of this new day, but in harmony with this truth is a special promise given to the “overcomers” in *Revelation 2:26-28*:

*“And he that overcometh, and keepeth My works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of My Father. **AND I will give him the MORNING STAR.**”*

It is wonderful to anticipate being in a place and position of glory where one has the privilege of helping to “shepherd” the nations, even with the power to “shatter” any rebellion in those nations if necessary, in order to “subdue” all things to Christ (see *Phil. 3:21*). But how much greater it is to anticipate being WITH HIM, in intimate fellowship as His BRIDE. For I believe that this promise to give to the “overcomer” the “Morning Star” is the NUPTIAL PLEDGE! Yes, all those who are privileged to inherit the Heavenly Kingdom and glory: “sons” who will serve Him in many and varied posts of responsibility as “rulers” (kings) and “teachers” (priests), will have a certain nearness and fellowship with Him, but none as close as the BRIDE, who will receive His unstinted attention and intimate companionship. But just the blessing of being with Jesus is worth going “all out” for that “prize.”

In *Revelation 22:16*, Jesus says:

"I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and Morning Star."

In both of these titles Jesus declares Himself to be a "precursor." For those not familiar with that word I will give the dictionary definition: *"a harbinger; one who or that which precedes an event and indicates its approach."* Jesus' birth as a Babe in Bethlehem of the house of David was a "harbinger"; a "sign" (*Lk. 2:11-12*) that not many years hence He would manifest to Israel as the Messiah-Deliverer; the King and Ruler of His people, with the "brightness" of His ministry as the light of the noonday sun, "ruling" over all the powers of darkness. Even so, His statement that He is the "bright and morning star" is another harbinger and sign. We have already seen that Peter declared that this "day star" would **ARISE IN THE HEARTS OF A PEOPLE** to indicate the dawning of a new day, and that this would indicate the nearness of the return of the brightness of the Sun (Son) to **RULE** in His Kingdom, with man's Stygian night of darkness, through his misrule through the church (moon), a thing of the past.

DAN

As in the preceding sons and their names, we are going to see how beautifully the name of Dan fits the progressive pattern of the "overcoming life," which is so essential for entrance through the gates of that Celestial City – the New Jerusalem.

And so, the name given to Jacob's 5th son was Dan. The reason is given in **Genesis 30:1-6**. The first four sons of Jacob had been born to Leah. But Rachel, Jacob's beloved, whom he had first loved and worked seven years for, was barren. So Rachel gave her maid to Jacob that she might have a child by her. When a son was born to Bilhah, the maid, Rachel said,

"God hath judged me, and hath also heard my voice, and hath given me a son: therefore called she his name Dan."

Dan means 'judged'. Whenever we read the words "judge,

judged, or judgment," we tend to think of that which is negative in nature. But such words are neutral in themselves. A "judgment" is simply a decision with reference to a certain person or a certain matter, and that decision can just as well be positive (favorable) as well as negative (unfavorable). In the instance before us, Rachel believes she was judged favorably by God by answering her prayer and giving her a son by her maid. Then she named him Dan, meaning 'judged'.

In applying the truth of "Dan" to our lives, I want to emphasize both the positive (favorable) and the negative (unfavorable). However, even the latter, when applied to Christians, can hardly be called "negative," for everything God has done for us, and is doing in our lives is designed for positive (favorable) purposes and results. At times we may think that God's judgments in our lives as Christians are negative, for they may involve disciplines and chastisements that seem unfavorable as we are experiencing them. Yet they are designed by God for the positive purposes and results of testing, training, and correction. The Psalmist had the right perspective when he said in *Psalm 19:9b-11*:

"...the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. Moreover by them is thy servant warned: and in keeping of them there is great reward."

Experience had also taught the Psalmist as spoken in *Psalm 119:75*:

"I know, O Lord, that Thy judgments are right, and that Thou in faithfulness has afflicted me."

He even longed for God's judgments:

"My soul breaketh for the longing that it hath unto Thy judgments at all times."

Psalm 119:20

To understand "Dan" and the judgments of God, we need to understand that they are divided into 3 parts: (1) The ways that we have been judged; (2) The ways we are being judged;

and (3) The ways we shall be judged. First let's look at the past. There can be no continuing progress in the "overcoming" life unless we understand, and it becomes a continuous reality to us, that the greatest judgment that ever took place in the history of the world took place on a hill called Golgotha (the place of "the skull") just outside the city of Jerusalem, where Jesus by His death on the Cross **JUDGED THE WHOLE WORLD!** Now there are several phases of this judgment: some positive (favorable) and some negative (unfavorable). And though you may already have a measure of understanding of what has been alluded to, it would be well to make it clear to you as never before just how you are involved in this judgment. Historically and legally, in the sight of God, **ALL** phases of this judgment have already been accomplished. The only thing that awaits is the implementation of that judgment in all of its phases in the process of time.

You need to get it firmly fixed in your mind and heart that **AT THE CROSS, YOU** were judged favorably: positively and forever **SET FREE**. This must not be just a mental assent in your mind, it must be "born" in your spirit; you must become "pregnant" with it! Only gradually will you have the capacity to fully grasp and understand **ALL** that this means, and just **HOW** it increasingly and effectively **WORKS** in your life to **YOUR ETERNAL BENEFIT**, as well as **BRINGING** the **SPIRITUAL REALITY** and **POWER** of the **PRESENT KINGDOM OF GOD** into every circumstance of your life and the lives of those around you. The **CROSS** has once and for all time put God on your side. From that time on (if you have "embraced" its work as yours) absolutely nothing (no circumstance, person or power) can ever be (or work) against you. *"If God be for us, who can be against us?" (Rom. 8:31)* God **ORDAINS** that **EVERYTHING** shall work **FOR YOU**.



CHAPTER 7

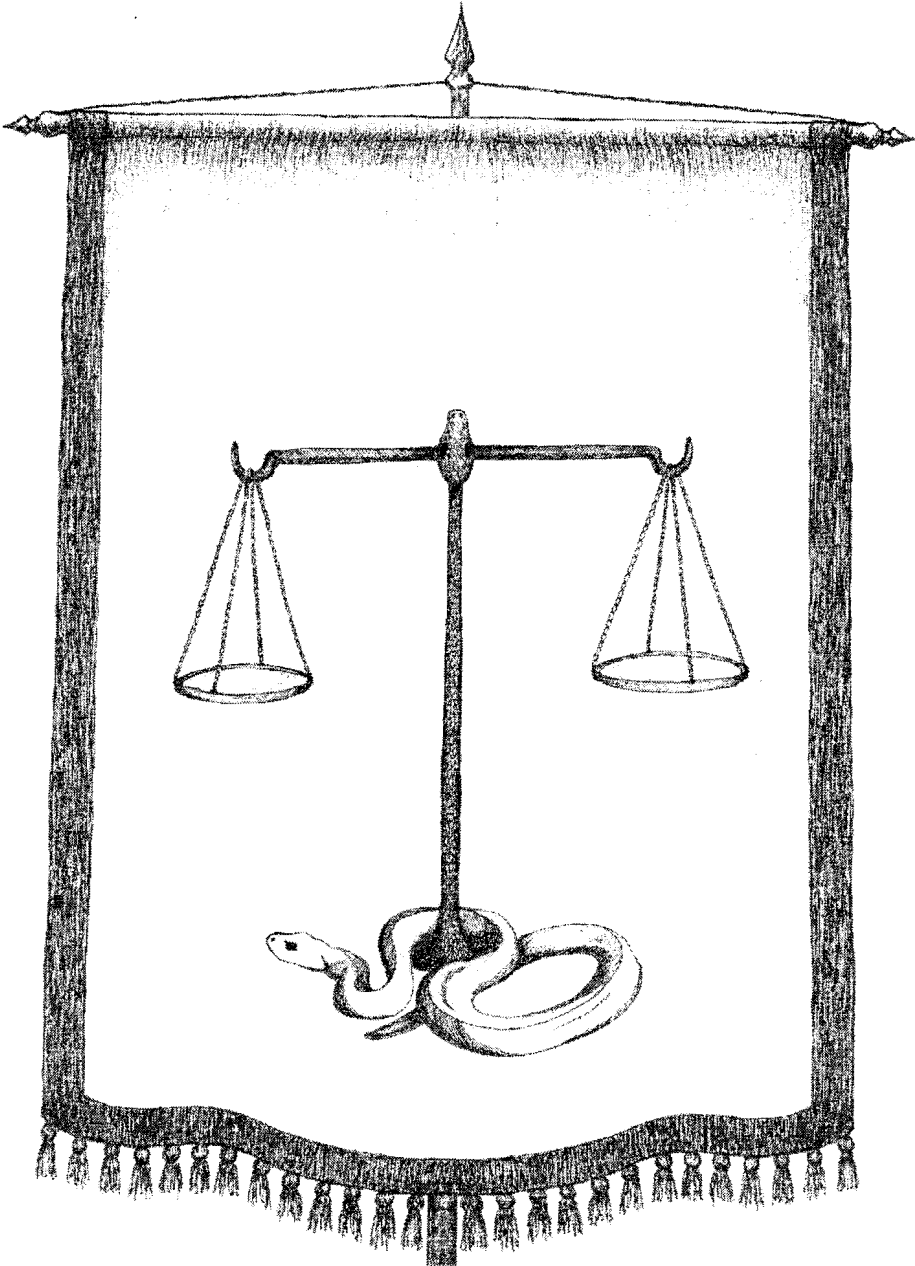
THE TRIBE OF DAN

We saw in the last chapter that Dan was Jacob's 5th son, born to Rachel by her handmaid, Bilhah. We also saw that the name "Dan" means 'judged', and that although we usually associate it with something negative, the basic words, 'judge', 'judged' and 'judgment' come from Hebrew and Greek words which are neutral in themselves. A 'judgment' is simply a decree or decision, and such can be either negative (unfavorable), or positive (favorable). Rachel was judged favorable by God, even as she declared when Dan was born: *"God hath judged me, and hath also heard my voice, and hath given me a son: therefore called she his name Dan."*

It was also stated that the greatest JUDGMENT of Almighty God in all of history was that which was accomplished by the death of Jesus Christ on the CROSS, because that "judgment" SET MANKIND FREE. ALL of the implications of this, and how it is implemented in our individual lives, will be set forth in the study. But first, let us relate this 5th son of Jacob with what happened on the 5th day of Creation. On the 5th day, we read that God said,

"...Let the waters bring forth abundantly the moving creature that hath life, and fowl that may fly above the earth in the open firmament of heaven. And God created great whales, and every living creature that moveth, which the waters brought forth abundantly, after their kind, and every winged fowl after his kind: and God saw it was good."

Genesis 1:20-21



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“And Bilhah conceived, and bare Jacob a son. And Rachel said, God hath judged me, and hath also heard my voice, and hath given me a son: therefore called she his name Dan.”

Genesis 30:5-6

THE BLESSING OF DAN BY JACOB/ISRAEL

“Dan shall judge his people, as one of the tribes of Israel.

Dan shall be a serpent by the way, an adder in the path, that biteth the horse heels, so that his rider shall fall backward.”

Genesis 49:16-17

THE BLESSING BY MOSES

“And of Dan he said, Dan is a lion’s whelp: he shall leap from Bashan.”

Deuteronomy 33:22

Notice that on this 5th day God created the creatures of the seas and of the air, which have a *freedom of movement* in *water* and *air* that land-bound animals do not have. This fact, associated with the way the number “5” is used in other Scriptures, indicates that this number portrays to us the truth of FREEDOM through the GRACE of God.

“Grace” is a word used over 100 times in the New Testament to describe and “sum up” ALL that God has done for us through Jesus Christ. It is God coming to us in LOVE to SET US FREE from the “curse” of the FALL through Adam, that He also might be able, BY His grace, to WORK IN us and THROUGH us that which we *cannot do ourselves*. Such grace is described by John, by his inspired words so beautifully picturing Jesus’ coming into this world:

“And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us (and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only Begotten of the Father), full of grace and truth. And of His fullness have all we received, and grace for (upon) grace. For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.”

John 1:14, 16-17

So real was that grace to the Apostle Paul, in its manifestation of Christ’s love and forgiveness, in its freedom-setting power, and in all that which was inwrought within him of the beauty of Christ’s nature, that he could only exclaim: *“By the grace of God I am what I am” (I Cor. 15:10).*

Yes, *“grace...came by Jesus Christ” (Jn. 1:17)*, but only because of the CROSS and its judgment on sin and all of its consequences, and upon Satan and all of his works. This was so that we might be FREE from all bondages and hindrances, and that God might be FREE to “make us perfect in every good work to do His Will, *working in us* that which is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ” and “through the blood of the everlasting covenant” (see *Heb. 13:20-21*). In applying the meaning of “Dan” (‘judged’) to the “overcoming life,” I stated that the judgments of God are divided into

three parts: 1) what has been judged, 2) what is being judged, and 3) that which will be judged, seeing how each is accomplished by God, and then implemented into our lives.

WHAT HAS BEEN JUDGED?

What HAS been judged? Death has been judged.

"But we see Jesus, Who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honor; that He by the grace of God should taste death for every man."

Hebrews 2:9

"For as much then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, He also Himself likewise took part of the same; that through death He might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil."

Hebrews 2:14

"For when we were without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly...God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."

Romans 5:6-8

I think it is quite apparent that Christ became our substitute in death: He took our place and paid the penalty, that we might go FREE. And since, by His resurrection, death no longer has dominion over Him (*Rom. 6:9*), He now has the power to give LIFE (eternal) to whomsoever He will. Paul tells us in *Romans 5:10*, that through the death of Christ we are reconciled to God, but that we are saved by His (resurrection) LIFE. The same Apostle declares in *■ Timothy 1:10* that it is Jesus Christ *"Who hath abolished death, and hath brought LIFE and IMMORTALITY to light through the gospel."* "LIFE" is for the soul, and IMMORTALITY is for the physical body. We might ask the question, "If Christ abolished death for both the soul and the physical body, then WHY have Christians continued to die physically? WHY have Christians had to wait so long to "reap" the "full fruit" of Christ's COMPLETED WORK on the CROSS?

Basically, the answer is “unbelief.” Jesus clearly taught that those who would fully believe in Him would never die. This is a vast subject and I can only “touch” on it here. In *John 8:51* Jesus said:

“Verily, verily, I say unto you, if a man keep My saying, he shall never see death.”

The verses following show that the Jews understood that He was talking about not dying physically, and this is what angered them so. Such an idea was preposterous. Their retort was:

“Art thou greater than our father Abraham, which is dead? and the prophets are dead: whom makest Thou Thyself?”

John 8:53

Jesus did not try to correct them by saying: “Oh, you misunderstood Me: I meant that ‘the soul’ would never see death. Of course, the physical body must continue to die until some future resurrection day.” NO! Jesus never implied in any of His teachings that He came to “save the soul,” but immortality for the physical would have to wait to some future age. When Jesus said on the Cross, *“It is finished,”* He meant just that: a full and complete redemption for both soul and physical body. A new age of the beginning of “paradise restored” could have begun in that generation.

Typical of the inability of those whom Jesus taught to fully believe His words was Martha. Read *John 11:23-27*. I won’t take time here to go into the whole narrative, but when Jesus asked her “point blank” whether she believed that those then alive would never die if they (fully) believed in Him, she refused to answer, but rather changed the subject. Jesus’ own chosen disciples failed to comprehend some of the things He told them, even when they were stated in the most simple, plain, and unambiguous language.

“For He taught His disciples, and said unto them, The Son of man is delivered into the hands of men, and they shall kill Him; and after that He is killed, He shall rise the third day.”

But they understood not that saying, and were afraid to ask Him."

Mark 9:31-32

WHY? Because of preconceived ideas and beliefs that get so "ingrained" into a person's thinking that it becomes nigh impossible for anything different to penetrate. Then there is human pride! Especially in "religious" matters, very few ever want to admit that their beliefs are in error. I even know the true story of a preacher whom the Lord was dealing with to change his thinking, to accept and "move" into some new areas of truth that God was bringing to his attention. This preacher flatly stated that he would rather die than admit that he had been wrong in anything that he believed.

Is it any wonder that Jesus almost "despaired" at "getting through" the human carnality, denseness, and pride of even His own disciples? Ponder and try to sense the inner agony Jesus was going through when He uttered these words when faced with the unbelief of His own disciples: *"O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I suffer you?"* (Read the whole story in *Matt. 17:14-20*.)

So, with regard to immortality for the physical body, the "carcasses" of Christians down through this age of almost 2,000 years have had to "fall in the wilderness" because the generation to which Jesus came could NOT RECEIVE the FULLNESS of His message, and the COMPLETENESS of His redemption of the Cross. Here by my "wording," I am alluding back to the divinely ordained TYPE or symbol of this truth. After being delivered out of Egypt by the blood of the "passover lamb," God brought His people to Mount Sinai where He taught them His Law and His ways for almost a year (at which time they also built the Tabernacle). He then planned to take them "swiftly" (eleven days journey – *Deut. 1:2*) INTO the Promised Land and the FULLNESS of their inheritance. But we know the story of their "unbelief"; they just could not believe God could defeat the GIANTS in the land (read *Num. 13* and *14*). So what could have been theirs in THAT generation, had to wait for 40 years – until ALL the

unbelieving generation had died off with their “carcasses” left in the wilderness, and a new generation raised up – ALL, that is, except two – Joshua and Caleb. They fully believed the land could be “taken,” and they lived through the entire wilderness, and entered the Promised Land.

The church has now been in the “wilderness” for almost 2,000 years. Millions of the physical bodies of Christians have had to grow old, die and be buried, when Jesus provided for just the opposite. If the generation to which Jesus came had fully believed, the earth would now be full of “immortals,” walking in perpetual youth and strength – never to die; but enjoying the “*paradise of God.*”

But let me interject something here for serious thought. Is not God a realist? Does not His Word say that everything must be established by two or three witnesses (*Deut. 19:15, II Cor. 13:1*)? And would not God conform to the type He had recorded through His “pattern people” – the Israelites? God preserved two witnesses throughout Israel’s Wilderness journeys to establish the fact that the generation which came out of Egypt through the blood of the passover lamb COULD have entered their FULL inheritance – the land of Canaan. So IF Jesus, our “passover lamb,” DID provide a FULL redemption for BOTH soul and physical body, and that full inheritance was taught to and made available to the generation to which He came, would He not have to conform to His own Word and establish that fact by a least two witnesses?

In *Revelation 11*, John describes events that are to take place before this age ends. Onto the scene come two Prophets whom the Lord calls “My two witnesses” (*11:3*). Now WHAT is a witness? A witness is someone who has seen or experienced something himself – he has “first-hand” knowledge. The question is, WHAT is to be established by these witnesses? What have they personally experienced that makes them unique? There can be only one answer. If what Jesus taught and accomplished while on this earth is true, then these two men FULLY BELIEVED and entered into immortality in their day and have been living on this earth in perpetual youth during

the entire "wilderness" of this age. Did not Jesus Himself say in *Matthew 16:28*,

"Verily I say unto you, there be some standing here, which shall not taste of death, til they see the Son of man coming in His kingdom?"

Read *verse 27* to clearly understand what He meant by His "coming in His kingdom." There is no other conclusion that you can come to except that the world will be "startled beyond comprehension" one of these days when two men appear in Jerusalem and boldly claim that they are "_____" and "_____" and that they were two of the personal disciples who walked with Jesus when He was on this earth; that they "fully partook" of Jesus' "finished work"; that their blood stream was changed from corruptible to incorruptible, and that they have been living in "immortal bodies" (not subject to death) ever since.

I have deliberately left out the names above, although those of you who have read my writings know who I believe they are. If what I have written herein is too much for you to "swallow," then you need to seriously consider what Jesus accomplished in His "finished work" and also the absolute veracity of His Word. (For further information on the two witnesses, request *THE MIDNIGHT CRY* from Shepherdsfield Publishers.)

There is so much more that could be said about the soon ending of the church's "wilderness wanderings," and the "*manifestation of the sons of God*" (both those with "glorified" bodies, and those with "immortal" (deathless) natural physical bodies). However, I might add an explanation here about an "immortal physical body." Since its blood stream is incorruptible, there is no "decay" or "aging" working in it – therefore only perpetual deathless youth – until the time comes for its glorification, when its "atomic vibration" is changed or accelerated to a "higher pitch" – and it can then function on a higher "plane of being" (the "heavenly" in contrast with being earthbound).

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Although an immortal body cannot die (naturally), it can be killed by being “damaged” to the place where it can no longer function, and the “spirit” withdraws or leaves. But only IF GOD PERMITS, as in the case of Jesus’ death upon the Cross. For, one functioning in an immortal body has the absolute protection of God. Jesus walked upon this earth as an “immortal” – with an incorruptible blood stream (see *I Pet. 1:18-19*). Therefore this promise was given to Him:

“For He (the Father) will give His angels charge concerning you, to guard you in all your ways. They will bear you up in their hands, lest you strike your foot against a stone.”

Psalm 91:11-12, Matthew 4:6

It is important to understand this, because the “two witnesses” – the two specific men alluded to above – have such absolute protection, as stated in *Revelation 11:5*,

“And if any one desires to harm them, fire proceeds out of their mouth and devours their enemies; and if any would desire to harm them, in this manner he must be killed.”

The “fire” probably refers to the authoritative word that they speak against any who would harm them (see *Jer. 5:14*). ● Only when the time comes for them to voluntarily lay down their lives as martyrs is this absolute protection removed and their enemies allowed to kill them (*Rev. 11:7*). But *Revelation 11:8-9* says that their dead bodies will lie in the streets of Jerusalem for 3½ days, and people from many nations will come to look at their dead bodies.

An ordinary mortal body begins to decay immediately after the “spirit” departs, and after 3½ days the “stench” would become so terrible I can’t imagine people wanting to get near to look at their bodies if they were in a state of decay. However it is my own conviction, based on *logical deduction* (not a spiritual revelation), that since these two men partook of the FULLNESS of Jesus’ redemption, that their bodies do not decay as they lie in the street, any more than Jesus’ body started to decay in the tomb (see *Ps. 16:10*, where, speaking

of Jesus' death, the Word of God says, "*For thou wilt not leave My soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption*" – or "suffer decay," as in the marginal reading of the New American Standard version). Perhaps this will be a factor in the unusual interest in these bodies of the two special witnesses as they lie in the street without suffering any decay.

After the 3½ days, their "spirits" re-enter their bodies and they are *resurrected*, for *Revelation 11:11* says "*they stood upon their feet; and great fear fell upon them which saw them.*" Then, (how long afterwards we are not told) they are "called" to "*ascend up to heaven*" (*Rev. 11:12*). In other words, their bodies would then be glorified, like unto Jesus' glorified body (*Phil. 3:21*), that from then on they are enabled to function in the heavenly realm and be with Jesus in His Glorious Kingdom, centered in the New Jerusalem, the Celestial City of God.

Jesus Himself manifested two kinds of immortal (deathless – not subject to death) inheritance for the outer or physical body. He first ministered in a body that had no death working in it (that is, it was "immortal"). The word mortal means 'dying' – subject to death because of sin. The "im," as a prefix before "mortal," simply means 'NOT' – and "immortal" means 'not dying', 'imperishable', 'not subject to decay, or aging and deterioration', because in such a one there is an incorruptible blood stream, for "*the life of the flesh is in the blood*" (*Lev. 17:11,14*). Jesus was thus manifesting the kind of life that Adam and Eve had in "*the Garden*" before the fall. They lived in perfect, undying, youth and health perpetually (until sin and God's sentence of judgment changed their blood stream from incorruptible to corruptible). It's possible (based on a Scriptural time-pattern, which I won't go into now) that they lived in such undying life for 100,000 years before they sinned and began to "reap" its wages – "dying" (decay and aging) and "death" (*Rom. 6:23*).

Finally, JESUS voluntarily "laid down" His life (*Jn. 10:18*) (the Father withdrawing His absolute protection) and was

taken and crucified, His body being placed in a tomb, and on the 3rd day following He re-entered that body and not only “resurrected” it, but also GLORIFIED it. Therein He demonstrated what Paul calls a “celestial” body (*I Cor. 15:20*), which is no longer earthbound, but is “raised” to a higher level of “atomic vibration” (for want of a better expression). Its “natural” realm is the “heavenly,” and it is ordinarily invisible to those still in the earthly realm unless (as Jesus manifested on numerous occasions) its “vibrational speed” is “lowered” to where it is manifested as a physical body of “flesh and bones” (no blood stream needed for a glorified body – see *Lk. 24:39*). Such a body can move through material substances. Jesus appeared in the room where the disciples were – the doors being shut (*Jn. 19:19,26*).

One of the greatest LIES taught in the churches is that ALL who have received *initial salvation* (the “GIFT” of eternal life), being “born anew” of the incorruptible seed of Christ (*I Pet. 1:23*), are thus automatically entitled to all the glories of “heaven” – to be with Jesus in a glorified body, dwelling with Him in the Celestial City – the New Jerusalem. Beloved, initial salvation – which is a free GIFT, as far as the physical body is concerned, entitles one only to the RESTORATION OF WHAT ADAM LOST – deathless (“immortal”) life on this earth in a body with an incorruptible blood stream – living in perpetual health and youth (with God’s absolute protection) for a thousand years or more before the time comes in God’s Plan for that body to be glorified.

Since the “wilderness” journey of the church is fast coming to a close, and we are to enter the “Promised Land” of our full inheritance, even the “*redemption* (from death) *of the purchased possession*” (*Eph. 1:14*) – the “*redemption of our bodies*” (*Rom. 8:23*), it is important for you to know what is required if you want to WIN the CROWN of life (which is the GLORIFIED body).



CHAPTER 8

The Divided Kingdom AND THE REMNANT

Rehoboam, Solomon's son, refused the request of the northern tribes to "lighten the yoke" which his father had put upon the people. As a result all Israel (except Judah and Benjamin) revolted and made Jeroboam their king (*I Ki. 12:16, 19-20*). But note *I Kings 12:17*:

"But as for the children of Israel which dwelt in the cities of Judah, Rehoboam reigned over them."

From this time on, when the people of the tribes which revolted are referred to, they are called the "children of Israel" or the "house of Israel," in contradistinction to the "children of Judah" or the "house of Judah." *I Kings 12:17* tells us that even at this time, when the revolt took place, there were individual members of the revolting tribes who were residing in certain cities of Judah, and they remained there, being ruled over by Rehoboam. This is important because these people of Israel became the nucleus of an ever-expanding presence of Israelites who defected from the northern tribes and took their stand under the banner of Judah and for the God of their fathers who dwelt in their midst in the Temple at Jerusalem.

Because Jeroboam feared that the people of the northern tribes under him would continue to go south to worship the Lord at Jerusalem, and their hearts would be turned back to

the "house of David" and king Rehoboam of Judah, he set up calf worship. He made two golden calves, setting one up in the city of Bethel and the other in Dan, saying to the people, *"Behold thy gods, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt"* (I Ki. 12:26-33). I Kings 12:31 says that he *"made priests of the lowest of the people, which were not of the sons of Levi."* As a result of this, all of the priests and Levites who were residing in their assigned cities throughout the northern tribes, left those cities, *"their suburbs and their possessions, and came to Judah and Jerusalem: for Jeroboam and his sons had cast them off from executing the priest's office unto the Lord"* (II Chron. 11:13-14). Not only that, but II Chronicles 11:16-17 says:

"And after them out of all the tribes of Israel such as set their hearts to seek the Lord God of Israel came to Jerusalem, to sacrifice unto the God of their fathers. So they strengthened the kingdom of Judah, and made Rehoboam the son of Solomon strong."

During the reign of Abijah, Rehoboam's son, God gave Judah a great victory over Israel. At that time Abijah even took cities in Israel from Jeroboam; *"Bethel with the towns thereof, and Jeshanah with the towns thereof, and Ephraim (identified as Ephraim in Jn. 11:54) with the towns thereof"* (II Chron. 13:18-19). During the reign of Asa, son of Abijah, we read in II Chronicles 15:9,

"And he gathered all Judah and Benjamin, and the strangers with them out of Ephraim and Manasseh, and out of Simeon: for they fell to him out of Israel in abundance, when they saw the Lord his God was with him."

Later, during the reign of Hezekiah, we read that *"divers of Asher and Manasseh and of Zebulun humbled themselves, and came to Jerusalem"* (II Chron. 30:11). The effects of this constant migration of Israelites from the ten tribes to the kingdom of Judah is reflected in the steady increase of Judah's armed might and the decrease of Israel's forces. Of the kings of Judah, Rehoboam could assemble 180,000; Abijah (18 years later), 400,000; Asa (6 years later), 580,000; Jehoshaphat (32

years later), 1,160,000. On the other hand, with Israel, Jeroboam could assemble 800,000, while much later king Ahab's army was compared to "*two little flocks of kids*" (I Ki. 20:27), which could not stand against the Syrians. This "siphoning" off of the more godly people from the northern tribes into the southern kingdom of Judah no doubt caused the northern tribes to plunge into gross idolatry more rapidly and thus into captivity to the Assyrians in 721 B.C. On the other hand, the southern kingdom was preserved for more than a hundred years longer, eventually also falling into gross idolatry and taken captive by the Babylonians beginning about 604 B.C.

Now, what happened after these captivities would take pages to document from the Scriptures, but I will try to summarize in a few sentences. In the previous paragraphs, I wanted to establish from the Scriptures the fact that besides the full tribes of Judah, Benjamin and Levi, that were within the Kingdom of Judah, there were also to be found representative numbers of ALL of the other tribes of Israel. Thus, after the 70 years of captivity in Babylon, when God opened the door for a return out of Babylon back to the Promised Land, the JEWS (an epithet which came into prominence during the captivity) who returned and were re-established in the land, are regarded in the Scriptures as the "restoration" of the entire nation to their former estate. Jeremiah, who ministered to the southern kingdom of Judah during the process of its dispersion, prophesied:

"And I will cause the captivity of Judah, and the captivity of Israel, TO RETURN, and I will build them as at the first."

Jeremiah 33:7

Now, to establish the TIME of this re-establishment, and making the statement FOOL-proof, God added in *Jeremiah 33:15*,

"In THOSE days and at THAT time, will I cause the Branch of Righteousness (Jesus Christ) to grow up unto David, and He shall execute judgment and righteousness in

the land."

THAT places the returned captivity of Judah AND Israel as a fully accomplished fact at the beginning of the Christian era. Therefore the 10-tribed kingdom of Israel, HAD RETURNED (in full representative numbers) WITH JUDAH at the time of the first restoration. Jesus stated emphatically that His ministry was only to the "lost sheep of the house of Israel" (*Matt. 15:24*); yet to the JEWS only in the land of Palestine did he minister. Later, on the day of Pentecost, Peter addressed Jews gathered at Jerusalem from various parts of the Roman Empire (*Acts 2:9-10*), saying to them:

"Let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made this Jesus Whom YE have crucified, both Lord and Christ."

Acts 2:36

The Jews at that time WERE the "house" (people) of Israel. Looking to the post-captivity era, Isaiah, who, was a Prophet to the southern kingdom of Judah, says:

"Except the Lord of hosts had left unto us a very small remnant, we should have been as Sodom, and we should have been like unto Gomorrah."

Isaiah 1:9

Paul in dealing with the place of natural Israel in the plan and purpose of God, quotes from *Isaiah 10:22-23*:

"Esaias (Isaiah) also crieth concerning Israel, Though the number of the children of Israel be as the sand of the sea, a remnant shall be saved."

Romans 9:27

The "saved" word there would better convey the idea if translated "preserved," for he was not talking about personal salvation, but rather the physical preservation of a remnant to fulfill a portion of God's plan. Paul further states in *Romans 11:5*, *"Even so at this present time there is a remnant according to the election of grace."* Note that "grace" word. It boldly

declares that natural Israel has no claim on God after the flesh; they are a people without a covenant. They broke the Mosaic Covenant (which was conditional) and God annulled it. But, you may ask, "What about the unconditional Abrahamic Covenant?" Very simple! God made that Covenant with Abraham and his seed. All you have to do is to read *Galatians 3*, to see how God views that Covenant as being fulfilled.

"Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ. And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise."

Galatians 3:16,29

Now WHY am I "belaboring" this point of truth? WHY all the above teaching? Because of the widespread adherence of many Christians to the so-called Anglo-Israel or British-Israel teaching, which claims that the 10 tribes disappeared from history, and then later reappeared as the Anglo-Saxon-Celtic peoples. Pure balderdash! I was "snared" in this delusion at one time, so I know the teaching and its arguments. If you have carefully followed the Scriptural presentation I have given, you will know that there is no need to "hunt up" some so-called "lost" tribes (the Scriptures do not even speak of any "lost" tribes). The truth is that the 10-tribed northern kingdom taken captive by the Assyrians was divorced by God (*Jer. 3:8*), and became "*not My people*" (*Hos. 1:9*). Except for those chosen to take their stand under the banner of Judah, and become a part of the "preserved remnant," they were "cut off" and amalgamated into the Gentile nations. Paul confirms this by quoting from *Hosea 1:10* in his discussion of God's mercy to the Gentiles in *Romans 9:23-26*:

"And that He might make known the riches of His glory on the vessels of mercy, which He had afore prepared unto glory, even us, whom He hath called, not of the Jews only, but also of the Gentiles? As he saith also in Osee (Hosea), I will call them My people, which were not My people... And it shall come to pass, that in the place where it was said unto them,

Ye are not My people; there shall they be called the children of the living God (through accepting Christ as Savior)."

Yes, it is possible that you or I might be in part descended from one of the 10 tribes. But what if some records were preserved that would prove such descent? Of what value would it be? Absolutely zero! John the Baptist thundered at the Pharisees and Sadducees:

"Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance: and think not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father; for I say unto you, that God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham."

Matthew 3:8-9

John was seeking to jolt them into realizing that blood-paternity with Abraham meant nothing if their hearts were not right towards God through repentance. In *Philippians 3:3*, Paul says,

"For we (as Christians) are the (true) circumcision, which worship God in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh."

In the verses following, Paul gives his pedigree as a descendent of Abraham, saying that if anyone had the right to "boast in the flesh," he certainly did. But such things as this "flesh boasting," he had counted loss for Christ. Yes, for the surpassing value of WINNING CHRIST, he had counted ALL such "fleshly things" as mere "dung" (worthless). Read *Philippians 3:3-15* to get the whole picture.

But, some will say, "what about the many promises given to Israel in the Old Testament? Are they not to be fulfilled? Can God break His word? For example, what about God's promise to Jacob in *Genesis 35:11* that 'a nation and a company of nations shall be of thee'?" Again, the answer is simple, if we will just follow Scriptural principles, instead of concocting "fleshly concepts," with no support in either Scripture or history. Let me state again emphatically that natural Israel has no more claim on God after the flesh. If God had not

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chosen, by His grace, to preserve a “remnant” only, to fulfill a portion of His purpose, natural Israel would be totally obliterated from the face of the earth, even as Sodom and Gomorrah.

I want to show how the provisions of the Abrahamic faith covenant are being fulfilled through the Scriptural principle of “stewardship transference.” The “mantle” of Kingdom responsibility was lifted from the natural to the spiritual seed of Abraham (*Matt. 21:43*), who would bring forth the fruits thereof, by being attached to the TRUE vine, Jesus Christ (*Jn. 15:1-5*). As the Gospel spread, it was no problem for God, in His overruling providence, to so direct the formation of peoples who had become Christianized into groupings and national entities which would conform to the pattern of the “tribal roles” prophesied in the Old Testament. Thus, the “birthright mantle” of Joseph fell to the two leading nations of Christendom: Ephraim (Great Britain), and Manasseh (the United States).

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God has arranged things so that all “boasting in the flesh” is excluded (*I Cor. 1:29*), including prideful boasting that one might be a “flesh” descendent of Abraham. Please follow me closely. Since the coming of Christ, the promised “seed” of the Abrahamic covenant (*Gal. 3:16*), there has been and now is, NO “true Israel” of God apart from “faith union” with Jesus Christ (*Gal. 3:7,29*). Let me show why. God gave to natural Israel (referred to as the “*dust of the earth*” – *Gen. 13:16*) an opportunity to manifest that which He desired under the conditions of the Mosaic or Law Covenant, namely, the fruits of the Kingdom (read *Isa. 5:1-7, Ps. 80:8-16*). Natural Israel under the Law failed! The Law was weak through the flesh (*Rom. 8:3*). But did such failure mean that God had failed, or that His Word had failed? Absolutely not!

The Apostle Paul deals with this very subject in *Romans 9*, where he begins a three chapter discussion of the place of "Israel" in the plan of God. He unveils a truth so simple, and yet so vast in its implications, that I can only briefly touch on it here. The "thread" of it runs all through the Old Testament from the time that God gave promises to Abraham and his "seed." As a matter of fact, it is the KEY to understanding God's perspective of "Israel," and how His Word cannot fail. After expressing grief and anguish over his brethren "after the flesh" for their failure, he then states why God's Word has not failed, and reveals a great KEY to the fulfillment of God's purpose. *Romans 9:6-8*:

"However, it is not as though God's Word had failed – coming to nothing. For it is not everybody who is a descendant of Jacob (Israel) who belongs to [the true] Israel. And they are not all the children of Abraham because they are by blood his descendants. [No, the promise was,] Your descendants will be called and counted through the line of Isaac [though Abraham had an older son]. That is to say, it is not the children of the body [of Abraham] who are made God's children, but it is the offspring to whom the promise applies that shall be counted [as Abraham's true] descendants." (AMPLIFIED VERSION)

Paul clearly declares that though a person may be a flesh descendant of Abraham, that does not of itself make that person a part of the "true Israel" of God. God is not interested in flesh descent, as such. Even as Jesus said, *"the flesh profiteth nothing"* (Jn. 6:63). Paul perceived that in the lives of the patriarchs, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, that God had wrought out "allegorical TYPES" pertaining to His plan for the future, at which time God would bring forth a "true Israel" ("princely-servant") people, created by God Himself, not by the flesh of man. As Paul pointed out, this is portrayed by Isaac, the "son of promise," the "miracle child" who came about only as a result of the Divine intervention of God. In *Galatians 4:28*, Paul declares: *"And you (Christian) brethren, like Isaac, are children of promise."* This is because we

have become "new creatures in Christ" by Divine intervention, born from above, born of the "incorruptible seed of Christ" (*II Cor. 5:17, Jn. 3:3-7, I Pet. 1:23*). It would be good for you to read carefully another "allegorical type" showing the difference between "flesh," and "Spirit promise" (that produced by Divine power). Paul contrasts Hagar and Ishmael (symbolically portraying fleshly Israel under the Law), with Sarah and Isaac (typifying "new Israel" of the Spirit under the new Covenant). This presentation is found in *Galatians 4:22-31*. Paul ends by saying in *4:31*: "***So, Brethren, we [who are born again] are not children of the slave woman [the natural], but of the free [supernatural].***"

In *Galatians 4:30*, Paul deals with the allegory of Hagar-Ishmael as portraying natural Israel under the Law; and Sarah-Isaac as picturing the true Spirit-Israel under the New Covenant. He says:

"But what does the Scripture say? Cast out and send away the slave woman and her son, for never shall the son of the slave woman be heir and share the inheritance with the son of the free [woman]." (See *Gen. 21:10*.)

Here is an important principle. Natural Israel can never have a part in the kingdom inheritance until they become "sons of the free woman" (New Covenant Israel through Jesus Christ). Thus, in fulfillment of this allegorical type, the unbelieving Jews were "cast out," or using Paul's figure of a tree in *Romans 11*, they were as branches "broken off" of the Abrahamic covenant tree (*11:17-21*); whereas believing Gentiles were "grafted in" to become a part of the new and true "Israel of God." Present-day Jews (unless believers in Christ) are not true Israelites. Neither is any other branch of natural Israel (supposed ten tribes or otherwise) a member of true Israel apart from THE PROMISED SEED of Abraham - Jesus Christ (*Gal. 3:16*).

Notice the claim which God discounts in *Revelation 2:9*: "*I know...the blasphemy of those who say they are (true) Jews and are not, but are the synagogue of Satan.*" And the true perspec-

tive in *Romans 2:28-29*: *"For he is not a [real] Jew (or 'Israelite') who is only one outwardly and publicly, nor is [true] circumcision something external and physical. But he is a (true) Jew who is one inwardly, and [true] circumcision is of the heart, a spiritual and not a literal [matter]."* (AMPLIFIED VERSION)

Read again *Galatians 4:28*, quoted previously. The true "Isaacs" or "Isaac's sons" are not the Anglo-Saxons, as some erroneously claim, but rather those, like Isaac, who are born by Divine intervention:

"But as many as received Him (Jesus Christ), to them He gave the right to become the children of God, even to those who believe in His Name, who were born not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God."

John 1:12-13

"True Israel" for this dispensation consists of Christians, and collectively Christendom (especially Protestant nations, who came out of the "BABYLONISH" Roman system).



CHAPTER 9

the Divided Kingdom, the Elect Remnant AND the TRUE ISRAELITES: – Levi

I am now going to go in a “different direction,” so to speak, than what I thought I would. This is because the Spirit “quickenened” some new truths when studying the name of Levi, and the tribe which descended from him.

That which is presented herein again confirms by prophetic type that which I have been seeking to establish from the Scriptures; that God purposed from the very beginning of His choice of Abraham and his “seed,” to replace the natural with the spiritual. And that from the time that the promised seed (Christ – *Gal. 3:16*) came, there have been no true Israelites except those spiritually ‘joined’ (the meaning of the name Levi) to Jesus Christ.

For this study we must go back to the very beginning of God’s visitation to the children of Israel in Egypt. When God spared all the firstborn males of the families of Israel, and visited the final plague on the Egyptians, He declared:

“Sanctify to me every firstborn, the offspring of every womb among the sons of Israel, both man and beast, it belongs to Me. ...When the Lord brings you into the land of the Canaan-

ite, as he swore to you and to your fathers, and gives it to you, that you shall devote to the Lord the first offspring of every womb, and the first offspring of every beast that you own; the males belong to the Lord. But every first offspring of a donkey you shall redeem with a lamb, but if you do not redeem it, then you shall break its neck; and every firstborn of man among your sons you shall redeem. And it shall be when your sons ask you in time to come, saying 'what is this?' then you shall say to him, 'with a powerful hand the Lord brought us out of Egypt, from the house of slavery. And it came about, when Pharaoh was stubborn in the land of Egypt about letting us go, that the Lord killed every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both the firstborn of man and the firstborn of beast. Therefore, I sacrifice to the Lord the males, the first offspring of every womb, but every firstborn of my sons I redeem'."

Exodus 13:2, 11-15

Further details are given in *Numbers 18:15-17*.

The firstborn of all clean male animals were to be given to Aaron and his sons (the priests) to sacrifice on the altar unto God. However, the firstborn of all human males, and of all unclean animals (which could not be used for sacrifice to God) were to be redeemed (bought back) for the redemption price of *5 shekels of silver*. The redemption money was given to Aaron and his sons (the priests) as God's representatives to use in the service of the Tabernacle.

In *Numbers 3:12* the Lord makes known a very important decision with reference to those who would be *especially* His to minister to Him in the Tabernacle service and in the priesthood. We can also understand *why* He instituted the "redemption principle" with reference to the firstborn of man and animals. I will quote first, and then amplify and explain.

"And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, Now, behold, I have taken the Levites from among the sons of Israel instead of every firstborn, the first issue of the womb among the sons of Israel. So the Levites shall be Mine."

Why did God make this change? And for what purpose?

When the Tabernacle was built at Mt. Sinai, so that God could dwell in the midst of His people (*Ex. 25:8*), He needed those who would serve Him in all of the ritual and sacrifices related to the Tabernacle, and also those who would “draw near” to minister to Him in the Holy Place and Holy of Holies. For this purpose, it is stated in *Numbers 3:12* that God did not choose to use the firstborn in each family, but rather He chose the entire tribe of Levi for this service, thus *substituting* the *Levites* as His *special possession*, instead of the firstborn. Because of this, the Levites were not numbered with the other tribes when it came to counting those who were 20 years old and above with reference to the census for soldiers able to go to war (*Num. 1:2*). Neither were the Levites given any inheritance in the Promised Land of Canaan, for the Lord said that HE would be their inheritance (*Num. 18:20-24; Deut. 10:9*).

All of this has tremendous symbolic and spiritual significance if you will just read carefully and follow the unveiling of this important prophetic type. Dispensationally, as a people, WHO does God call His firstborn? The answer is found in *Exodus 4:22*:

“Thus says the Lord, Israel is My “firstborn” among the nations.”

Also in *Hosea 11:1* we read:

“When Israel was a child, then I loved him, and called My son out of Egypt.”

Since we have already seen that the individual firstborn males were *replaced* by the tribe of Levi, is this not a veiled prophecy which declares that Israel, the Lord’s firstborn nation, would also be replaced? Remember, the name “Levi”

means ‘adherence’, or ‘to be joined to’. We might ask the question, when God decided to replace the firstborn males of Israel with one of the tribes, as those to serve Him, and be His *special possession*, why did he choose *Levi*? Why not

of the other tribes? I believe the answer, at least in part, is found in something that happened as recorded in *Exodus 32*. There we have the record of what took place while Moses was on the Mount receiving the Law from God. Irritated by what they considered as Moses' "delay" in coming down from the mount, the Israelites pressured Aaron into making a calf of gold, which the people began to worship. When Moses came down from the Mount, he heard the people in their idolatrous revelry around the calf. Notice now what happened as I quote *Exodus 32:25-28*:

"Now when Moses saw that the people were out of control ...then Moses stood in the gate of the camp, and said 'whoever is for the Lord, come to me! And all the sons of Levi gathered together to him. And he said to them, Thus saith the Lord, the God of Israel, every man of you put his sword upon his thigh, and go back and forth from gate to gate in the camp, and kill every man his brother, and every man his friend, and every man his neighbor. So the sons of Levi did as Moses instructed, and about three thousand men of the people fell that day."

It was the Levites who chose to leave the camp, and 'adhere' to Moses at the gate, and then do his bidding, with the result that three thousand were slain. Moses is a type of Christ, the Son of God. When the Son of God came down from the mount (Heaven) to this earth, incarnated in the Babe of Bethlehem, later to be manifest to Israel as Jesus, He saw a nation (Israel) that was "out of control" as far as the Will of God was concerned. He saw religious leaders (of whom Aaron was a type) who had made void the Word of God by their traditions (their "*golden calf*"). He called them, and the whole nation, to repentance; to hear His Word and to come follow ('adhere to') Him. There were those who heard Jesus call and, like the Levites in Moses day, chose to "leave the camp" of the apostate nation of Israel and take their stand with Him. Jesus was rejected by the nation and crucified. But by His death and resurrection, He established a new Covenant with many (*Matt. 26:26-28*). The many who accepted His call and

were 'joined' (the meaning of Levi) to Him as His church (*'called-out' ones*) then became a "new Israel" to replace the "firstborn" (old, natural Israel), as God's *special possession* and *inheritance*, just as in the type, the Levites replaced the first-born males.

Hallelujah! How can you hold back the shouts of joy as you marvel at the wonder of God's Plan, and at the exactitude of the fulfillment in "spirit" and in "reality" in the New Covenant of that which He pictured by type concerning the natural in the Old Covenant. Thus is demonstrated the reality of Paul's statement in *I Corinthians 15:46*, first the natural (old Israel after "the flesh") and then spiritual (new Israel after "the spirit"). It is also interesting to note that just as the Levites (who stood with Moses) slew 3,000 (*Ex. 32:28*), Peter, on the day of Pentecost, as a representative of the "new Israel" Levites (joined to the Lord Jesus) also "slew" by the "sword" (the Word of God – *Heb. 4:12*) 3,000 souls. That "sword" pierced their hearts (*Acts 2:37*) causing them to "die" to their old rebellious ways, and to be raised to new life in Christ. Hallelujah! You should shout and praise some more!

How can we fail to see that during this age of grace, under the new Covenant, God's "firstborn" (natural Israel – the dust of the earth – *Gen. 13:16*) has been *replaced* by the "new Israel," those who are Abraham's *spiritual* seed (the "*stars of heaven*" – *Gen. 15:5*). This should cause us to see that the true "Israel" of *this* dispensation, has *nothing* to do with *natural* blood paternity with Abraham. As a matter of fact, the unbelieving Jews, although still a "chosen people" for an eventual purpose, are not even considered by God at the present time to be true Jews, or true Israelites. Hear Paul's words in *Romans 2:28-29*:

"For he is not a (true) Jew who is one outwardly; neither is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh. But he is a (true) Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that which is of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter, and his praise is not from men, but from God."

The same thought is expressed in *Revelation 2:9* as “*the blasphemy by those who say they are (true): Jews and are not but are a synagogue of Satan.*”

Is it any wonder then that John the Baptist, who was the forerunner of the *new* dispensation, the *new* covenant, and the *new* Israel (in “truth” and “spirit” within the heart), thundered at those who were exalting and trusting in their external blood paternity with Abraham:

“Bring forth fruits worthy of repentance, and begin not to say within yourselves, we have Abraham as our father: for I say unto you that God is able of these stones to raise up children to Abraham.”

Matthew 3:8

Is this principle any different among others (Anglo-Saxons or whomever) who are saying or speaking about their supposed blood paternity to Abraham as if *that in itself* has some merit apart from the only One Who can bring forth the fruit in our lives which manifests or gives evidence of true repentance, Jesus Christ (*Jn. 15:1-5*)?

Now consider *Exodus 13* where God first declared that the firstborn were His. Remember, it was to be the firstborn males of all life, both man and animals that were to be given to the Lord (*Ex. 13:2,12; Num. 3:13*). The firstborn of clean animals would be offered to the Lord on the altar as sacrifices, but the firstborn of unclean animals could not be so offered, so the owner had to “redeem” (buy back) from the Lord the unclean animals. Now here is a most remarkable requirement specified by the Lord at the time He declared the firstborn to be His. In *Exodus 13:13* we read:

“But every first offspring of a donkey you shall redeem with a lamb, but if you do not redeem it, then you shall break its neck.”

A donkey was an unclean animal and had to be “redeemed” or “bought back” by a payment to the Lord of a clean animal. The Lord specifically stated that it had to be a lamb.

In this Scripture, probably little noticed by most Bible readers, is a remarkable prophecy. The donkey stands in type for the people of Israel after the flesh. As part of the whole human race contaminated by sin, we are unclean. We read in *Isaiah 64:6*:

"But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousness is as filthy rags."

Yet, God provided for our redemption (and cleansing) through a spotless Lamb (the Lord Jesus Christ; *Jn. 1:29, Heb. 9:14*). *Exodus 13:13* specifically states that a donkey must be redeemed by its owner with a lamb, or the donkey's neck was to be broken. This, of course, would result in the death of the animal and render it useless to the owner. The nation of Israel, symbolized by the donkey, refused to be redeemed by God's Lamb – Jesus Christ. Therefore their "neck" was "broken."

God repeatedly accused the people of Israel of being stiff-necked (*Ex. 32:9, 33:3,5; Deut. 9:6,13*; etc.). It is especially significant to note that after the Jewish nation (except the believing remnant) had refused to receive the testimony of the apostles and evangelists of the early church concerning Jesus as the Messiah and God's "Lamb of redemption," the evangelist Stephen, just before his martyrdom said,

"Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers did, so do ye."

Acts 7:51

Because they refused to be redeemed by God's Lamb, God broke their neck. He broke their nation by the Romans in 70 A.D., with the incredible story told by Josephus, the historian of that day, of the absolute destruction of Jerusalem and the glorious Temple, of which Jesus said not one stone would be left upon another (*Matt. 24:2*).

It was primarily the total destruction of Jerusalem with its Temple that caused the disintegration of the nation. The

vast majority of the people were then either killed, sold into slavery, or scattered throughout the Roman Empire. The reason I emphasize the destruction of Jerusalem as that which “broke” the nation is because in the *Book of Isaiah*, *Jerusalem* is called “*the neck*” (*Isa. 52:2*). When God sent the Assyrian nation as a judgment to destroy the northern 10-tribed kingdom, and carry its inhabitants captive, the Assyrian army also pushed south, overrunning much of Judah, but was miraculously stopped and destroyed just outside Jerusalem. You can read about it in *Isaiah* chapters *36-39*, *II Kings 18:17-20:11* and *II Chronicles 32:9-24*. The Prophet Isaiah, a Prophet to the southern kingdom of Judah, in warning them about this coming invasion before it took place said:

“Now therefore, behold, the Lord bringeth up upon them (Judah) the waters of the river, strong and many, even the king of Assyria, and all his glory: and he shall come up over all his channels, and go over all his banks: and he shall pass through Judah; he shall overflow and go over, he shall reach even to the neck....”

Isaiah 8:7-8

Read in *Isaiah 37:36* the remarkable fact that to save “the neck” (Jerusalem) from being “broken,” the angel of the Lord destroyed 185,000 Assyrian soldiers in one night. Yet, as we have seen, that “neck” was “broken” many years later, the nation destroyed, and its inhabitants scattered.

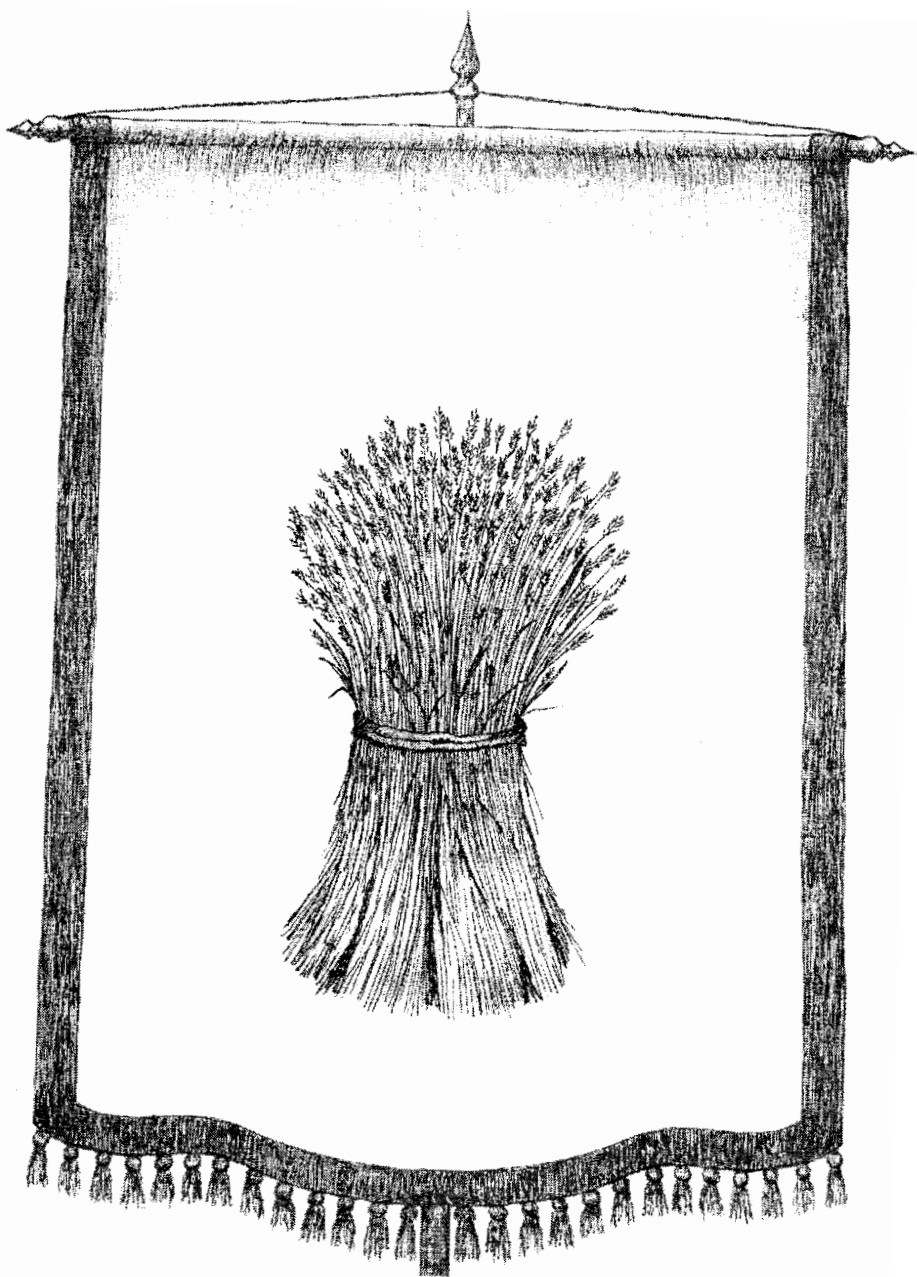
CHAPTER 10

MYSTERY OF THE SONS OF ISRAEL

Let us consider the mystery of the sons of Israel. Reuben was the firstborn, but because of his sin the birthright was taken away from him. Simeon was the second, but he failed to hear the Word of the Lord; therefore, it was not given to him. So it is through all of the sons until we come to Joseph. Joseph was one who feared the Lord and walked in His ways, therefore was the birthright given to him. This is to show us that the birthright is not reckoned according to lineal descent but according to spiritual worth. And it shows that God's favor is upon those who fear Him and seek His face. Only those who look unto Him and trust in Him, making Him their guide and stay, will be given the double portion which is the inherent right of the firstborn.

And what is this double portion? It is first an abundant entrance into the eternal Kingdom of God, and secondly it is an inheritance among those who will rule and reign as co-heirs of the Heavenly realm, sitting also in judgment over the angels who have been ministering spirits, and who will continue to minister to the inheritors. This is the double portion given unto the firstborn.

However, the firstborn is not that of the physical, but that of the spiritual. It is that which is spoken of in Scripture as the 'church of the firstborn' (*Heb. 12:23*). The firstborn are those who will first enter into eternal life and then into the



Joseph

"And she [Rachel] conceived, and bare a son; and said, God hath taken away my reproach: and she called his name Joseph; and said, The LORD shall add to me another son."

Genesis 30:23-24

THE BLESSING OF JOSEPH BY JACOB/ISRAEL

"Joseph is a fruitful bough, even a fruitful bough by a well; whose branches run over the wall: the archers have sorely grieved him, and shot at him, and hated him: but his bow abode in strength, and the arms of his hands were made strong by the hands of the mighty God of Jacob; (from thence is the shepherd, the stone of Israel:) even by the God of thy father, who shall help thee; and by the Almighty, who shall bless thee with blessings of heaven above, blessings of the deep that lieth under, blessings of the breasts, and of the womb: the blessings of thy father have prevailed above the blessings of my progenitors unto the utmost bound of the everlasting hills: they shall be on the head of Joseph, and on the crown of the head of him that was separate from his brethren."

Genesis 49:22-26

THE BLESSING BY MOSES

"And of Joseph he said, Blessed of the LORD be his land, for the precious things of heaven, for the dew, and for the deep that coucheth beneath, and for the precious fruits brought forth by the sun, and for the precious things put forth by the moon, and for the chief things of the ancient mountains, and for the precious things of the lasting hills, and for the precious things of the earth and fulness thereof, and for the good will of him that dwelt in the bush: let the blessing come upon the head of Joseph, and upon the top of the head of him that was separated from his brethren."

His glory is like the firstling of his bullock, and his horns are like the horns of unicorns: with them he shall push the people together to the ends of the earth: and they are the ten thousands of Ephraim, and they are the thousands of Manasseh."

Deuteronomy 33:13-17

glories of the Heavenly Kingdom; for theirs will be a realm that is much higher than those who will dwell upon the earth. Those who will dwell on the earth have only one portion, eternal life. But those who will dwell in the upper realms of the Heavenly Kingdom and glory will be invested with the double portion of not only eternal life but also the Heavenly glory. They will also have the double power of living in the Heavenly or manifesting on the earthly, for doubly blessed are they and double is their portion.

Those who will live on earth in the coming Kingdom, even though they will not die, will not have attained to the realm of the firstborn church, and thus they will be limited to the earthly sphere. If they are diligent and seek the Lord with their whole hearts and obey His every word, then they too shall eventually come into the Heavenly Kingdom and inherit a double portion, though it will not be of the same glory as those who have preceded them. The Scripture says that the glory of the earthly is not the glory of the Heavenly, and that even in the Heavenly glory one star differs from another in glory and all are not equal (*I Cor. 15:40-41*). So will there be many realms even in the Heavenly, and one realm will be of greater glory than another.

Now consider further that which is shown in the sons of Jacob-Israel. As Reuben was 'unstable as water' (*Gen. 49:4*), so does this show the instability of those who first believe in the Lord but do not continue to 'hear' His Word, which is the meaning of Simeon; and who do not 'adhere' to Him, which is the meaning of Levi; and who do not show forth His 'praise', which is the meaning of Judah. Even so do they lose out and forfeit both the earthly and the Heavenly inheritance. But those who will 'hear' and 'adhere' to the Lord, even cleaving to their Lord and Savior, will come into possession of the birthright in its first phase which is eternal life. But this life is only of the earthly inheritance and does not provide for an entrance into the Heavenly realm. This is not reached until we come to Judah, who was the father of the royal tribe and the father of the royal seed of David.

God wishes to pour out His Spirit upon us that we might become a 'praise' in the earth. And if we will seek Him diligently and walk in His ways as did David His servant, then will He raise us up unto the Throne to rule and reign with Him. For just as Judah was the father of David, so is the Lord the Father and Keeper of all those who are making themselves ready to receive the crown of glory which shall be given in that day when He comes to reward all who have been faithful to Him (*Rev. 22:12*).

As the scepter belonged to Judah and the birthright belonged to Joseph, so shall those God raises up unto Himself be invested with both the double inheritance of Joseph and the ruling scepter of Judah. Joseph had a younger brother called Benjamin. Benjamin was born in the Promised Land. Even so does Benjamin picture the coming day or age when God's people will enter into their birthright inheritance, whether that be of the earthly or of the heavenly. Those who receive the double portion and enter into the heavenly, will, like the name "Benjamin" ('son of my right hand') implies, be seated at God's Right Hand as sons of glory to rule and reign with Him. Now is the time to give ourselves diligently unto the Lord that He might make us rulers together with Him in His own realm. For many are called but few are chosen. Yes, many are called, but few give themselves diligently to make their calling and election sure (*II Pet. 1:10*). So give diligence if you would be among those to receive the double portion inheritance and also the scepter of rulership with Him.

Joseph, the birthright holder, had two sons. These two sons represent the two types of inheritance of those who will be received of the Lord into His Kingdom. The first, Manasseh, represents those who will enter the earthly inheritance, for Joseph said when Manasseh was born, 'God has caused me to forget my former trials' (*Gen. 41:51*). Even so do those who receive eternal life forget their past sins and past life and look to their Lord Who forgives all the past and causes them to receive the gift of eternal life.



MANASSEH

“And Joseph called the name of the firstborn Manasseh: For God, said he, hath made me forget all my toil, and all my father’s house.”

Genesis 41:51

THE BLESSING OF MANASSEH BY JACOB/ISRAEL

“And Israel stretched out his right hand, and laid it upon Ephraim’s head, who was the younger, and his left hand upon Manasseh’s head, guiding his hands wittingly; for Manasseh was the firstborn. And he blessed Joseph, and said, God, before whom my fathers Abraham and Isaac did walk, the God which fed me all my life long unto this day, the Angel which redeemed me from all evil, bless the lads; and let my name be named on them, and the name of my fathers Abraham and Isaac; and let them grow into a multitude in the midst of the earth.

...Joseph...held up his father’s hand, to remove it from Ephraim’s head unto Manasseh’s head. And Joseph said unto his father, Not so, my father: for this is the firstborn; put thy right hand upon his head.

And his father refused, and said, I know it, my son, I know it: he also shall become a people, and he also shall be great: but truly his younger brother shall be greater than he, and his seed shall become a multitude of nations. And he blessed them that day, saying, In thee shall Israel bless, saying, God make thee as Ephraim and as Manasseh: and he set Ephraim before Manasseh.”

Genesis 48:13-20

THE BLESSING BY MOSES

“His [Joseph’s] glory is like the firstling of his bullock, and his horns are like the horns of unicorns: with them he shall push the people together to the ends of the earth: and they are the ten thousands of Ephraim, and they are the thousands of Manasseh.”

Deuteronomy 33:17

And then Ephraim, which means 'double fruitfulness', represents those who receive the additional benefit of the heavenly inheritance. For they have brought forth fruits, not just to receive eternal life, but that fruit of the Spirit necessary to qualify them to be the overcomers who will inherit the Heavenly Kingdom. If we will give ourselves wholly to the Lord, He will bring forth fruit in our lives unto the double portion of Ephraim, and we shall inherit His glory. Notice that Manasseh was the firstborn but Ephraim was placed ahead of Manasseh. So will those who enter the Heavenly Kingdom be placed ahead of those who enter the earthly.

the SONS OF JACOB

Genesis 29, 30 & 35

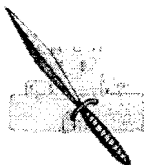
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29:32 And Leah conceived, and bare a son, and she called his name **REUBEN**: for she said, Surely the **LORD** hath looked upon my affliction; now therefore my husband will love me.

- **REUBEN** {reh-oo-bane'} = "BEHOLD A SON"

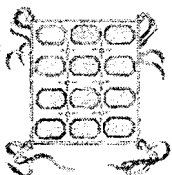
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:33 And she [Leah] conceived again, and bare a son; and said, Because the **LORD** hath heard that I was hated, he hath therefore given me this son also: and she called his name **SIMEON**.

- **SIMEON** {shim-one'} = "HEARING"

3



:34 And she [Leah] conceived again, and bare a son; and said, Now this time will my husband be joined unto me, because I have born him three sons: therefore was his name called **LEVI**.

- **LEVI** {lay-vee'} = "JOINING OR ADHERING"

4



:35 And she [Leah] conceived again, and bare a son: and she said, Now will I praise the **LORD**: therefore she called his name **JUDAH**; and left bearing.

- **JUDAH** {yeh-hoo-daw'} = "PRAISE"

5



30:5 And Bilhah conceived, and bare Jacob a son. 6: And Rachel said, God hath judged me, and hath also heard my voice, and hath given me a son: therefore called she his name **DAN**.

- **DAN** {dawn} = "JUDGED"

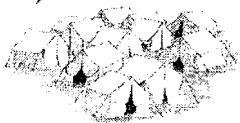
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:7 And Bilhah Rachel's maid conceived again, and bare Jacob a second son. 8: And Rachel said, With great wrestlings have I wrestled with my sister; and I have prevailed: and she called his name **NAPHTALI**.

- **NAPHTALI** {naf-taw-lee'} = "WRESTLING"

7



:10 And Zilpah Leah's maid bare Jacob a son. 11: And Leah said, A troop cometh: and she called his name **GAD**.

- **GAD** {gawd} = "A TROOP COMETH"

8



:12 And Zilpah Leah's maid bare Jacob a second son. 13: And Leah said, Happy am I, for the daughters will call me blessed: and she called his name **ASHER**.

- **ASHER** {aw-share'} = "HAPPY"

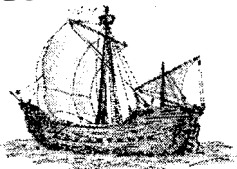
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:17 And God hearkened unto Leah, and she conceived, and bare Jacob the fifth son. 18: And Leah said, God hath given me my hire, because I have given my maiden to my husband: and she called his name **ISSACHAR**.

- **ISSACHAR** {yis-saw-kawr'} = "RECOMPENSE"

10



:19 And Leah conceived again, and bare Jacob the sixth son. 20: And Leah said, God hath endued me with a good dowry; now will my husband dwell with me, because I have born him six sons: and she called his name **ZEBULUN**.

- **ZEBULUN** {zeb-oo-loon'} = "HABITATION"

11



:22 And God remembered Rachel... 23: And she conceived, and bare a son... 24: And she called his name **JOSEPH**...

- **JOSEPH** {yo-safe'} = "GOD WILL ADD ANOTHER"

12



35:18 And it came to pass, as her [Rachel] soul was in departing, (for she died) that she called his name Benoni: but his father called him **BENJAMIN**.

- **BENJAMIN** {bin-yaw-mene'} = "SON OF MY RIGHT HAND"

CHAPTER 11

ASHER AND INTERNATIONAL LAW

"And there was one Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Aser: she was of a great age, and had lived with an husband seven years from her virginity; and she was a widow of about fourscore and four years, which departed not from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day. And she coming in that instant gave thanks likewise unto the Lord, and spake of him to all them that looked for redemption in Jerusalem."

Luke 2:36-38

"Out of Asher his bread shall be fat, and he shall yield royal dainties."

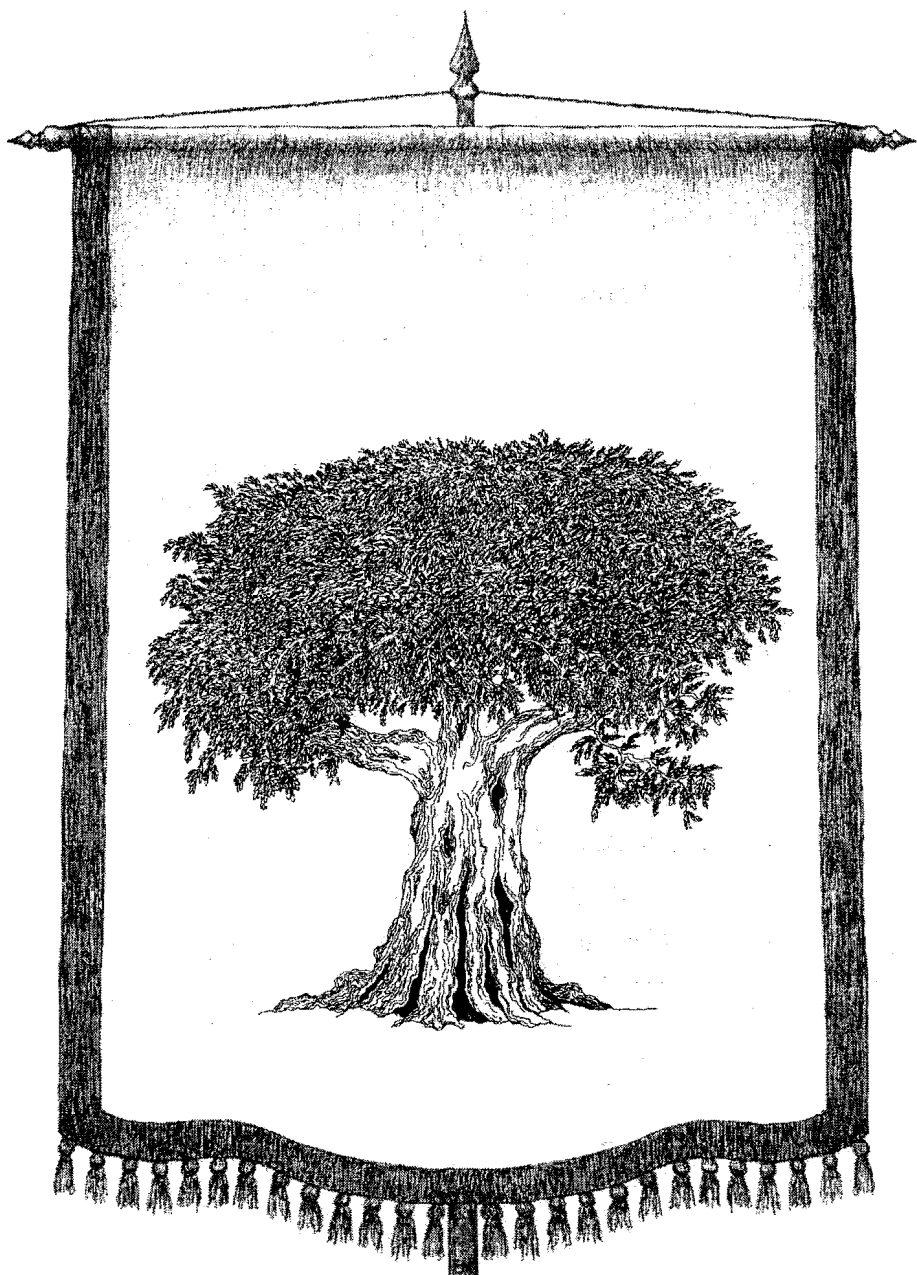
Genesis 49:20

"And of Asher he said, Let Asher be blessed with children; let him be acceptable to his brethren, and let him dip his foot in oil."

Deuteronomy 33:24

Since the decade of the 1950s, I, Mikkel Dahl, have repeatedly stated in my writings that the parables, strange sayings of the Lord Jesus Christ, together with His miracles as well as the events which transpired in His life, were all prophecies wrought out in drama!!

I have also claimed that our present Gentile nations of Christendom are end-time (spiritual) Israel. Wherefore, al-



Asher

*"And Leah said, Happy am I, for the daughters
will call me blessed: and she called his name Asher."*

Genesis 30:13

THE BLESSING OF ASHER BY JACOB/ISRAEL

*"Out of Asher his bread shall be fat, and he shall yield
royal dainties."*

Genesis 49:20

THE BLESSING BY MOSES

*"And of Asher he said, Let Asher be blessed with
children; let him be acceptable to his brethren, and let
him dip his foot in oil."*

Deuteronomy 33:24

though Jerusalem holds priority, we should not overlook the tremendous importance of Gentile Christendom and the events transpiring there.

In my booklet entitled *WORLD WAR III*, first published decades ago [*available from Shepherdsfield*], was set forth the correlation between the ancient tribes of Israel and the nations of Christendom. Since the tribe of Asher (Aser) is mentioned in our Scripture backdrop, your attention is here drawn to Holland (ascribed to the tribe of Asher).

It might be well for the reader to review how father Jacob blessed his assembled sons, as well as the blessings by Moses (recorded in *Genesis 49* and *Deuteronomy 33*).

The Prophetess mentioned in *Luke 2:36-38* was Anna (Hannah), fathered by Phanuel of Asher's tribe. The episode covered in Luke's 2nd chapter details the experience of the parents in the Jerusalem Temple, when coming to dedicate their Firstborn unto God – according to the Law through Moses. After the blessing and prophesying by one Simeon (hearing), THEN entered the old widow Anna. She also spoke similarly of the Infant unto the many in expectancy of God's Kingdom.

Dismally do we fail to understand Scripture unless we know the meaning of names of people and places involved. Briefly, Anna means 'grace' or 'favor' (which may also include 'mercy'). Phanuel is the 'Face of God', while Asher denotes 'happiness', 'honesty', even 'abundance' (prosperity). We are told that Anna was a prophetess; that is, she was prophesying unto Jerusalem – God's people – and unto us through events to unfold in the nation of Holland!

Being of Phanuel indicates she was ever before the Lord's face – even very religious as is also brought out in the text. And she was a widow of "about 84 years."

By this we are told that the nation to be known as Holland would find favor in the sight of God, and that the Lord's Grace would suffice them – even unto prosperity. (I have

gathered from Dutch friends that their government is more generous unto the unemployed, etc., than any other country of which I know.) Large families are also common; scripturally, that is a form of wealth. Although twice overrun by occupying military forces in the 20th century, we should not forget the words of the Psalmist who sang: *"Before I was afflicted I went astray; but now I have kept Thy word"* (Ps. 119:67). Their ever threatening waters of the sea and their afflictions through war, appear to have engendered a deeply religious spirit (at least in the past). And it seems of interest to observe that as Anna was a widow, so have women sat on Holland's throne.

A Dutch friend told me that the world's largest oil refinery is located in Holland – which fact should remind us of the prophecy, saying: *"...and let him dip his foot in oil"* (Deut. 33:24). The foot bespeaks the end of the journey; from toes to heel its last lap. Which means that this last century is winding up Asher's end-time journey, previous to the Lord commencing His *"strange work"* (Isa. 28:21) which He will terminate by His sudden return to earth.

When the Infant Jesus was taken to the Temple, that was a presentation unto the Lord God. But He was then an infant – unable to do anything: time had to elapse. My frequent readers are aware that *"the day of the Lord"* is 42 years. Divide that by Israel's number, and it nets 3½ years.

When the Lord Jesus takes out of this world His Bride-elect, THAT will then also be "a presentation unto the Lord God." But the Lord still remains in the Heavenlies: not having at that time returned to earth. He could be compared to the Infant Jesus Who had to wait time before manifesting in the Jerusalem Temple. About 3½ years after receiving His Bride-elect, He 'reaps the Harvest of the earth' (Rev. 14:14-16). Two weeks later, He returns to earth to END the nuclear holocaust then raging. THEN will He commence His mighty works – even as at first in Cana in *"Galilee of the nations"* as the Christ then turned a vast amount of water into the best

matured wine available! (See *Jn. 2:9-10.*)

Water bespeaks the human emotions – on OUR plane of life – which emotions are also mingled with, often directed by, our thought processes. Wherefore, WHEN the Lord has bodily returned to earth, human emotions and man's thought processes shall suddenly change from the present form (attitudes), into that of a fully matured, superb wine!

Our Lord said on that last night with His as He lifted the chalice of wine, "...**THIS is My blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins**"! (See *Matt. 26:28.*) As my readers are aware, that blood which flowed in the veins of Jesus of Nazareth until the close of His 40 days of fasting in the wilderness, was then suddenly transformed by the power of God into the LIFE-substance of an IMMortal human being! (The fact of that was set before my readers in the ***GREAT PYRAMID*** treatise, back in 1949; and available from *Shepherds-field.*)

Wherefore, not only shall a great many become immortals at the Harvest's ingathering, but multitudes greatly moved to pursue and enter into the selfsame spirit as manifested by the Christ (a great and relentless ZEAL, ever to do the Lord's Will). What a glorious time awaits our humanity when the Middle East and the nations of Christendom (I speak especially of the Protestant nations), will no longer expend themselves for armaments unto war, but will convert their engines of war into agricultural implements and machines unto man's good (*Isa. 2:4, Mic. 4:3*). Neither will our Governments at that time any longer be paying out about one third of their revenues to pay interest on loans! Our nefarious monetary system of today is destined to be flushed into the gutter, together with a multitude of "legal" villains and their villainies!!

Because the widowed prophetess was of the tribe of Asher, it becomes apparent that Holland becomes prophetic for us in these end-times. So, let us return to the time of the Infant Jesus' presentation in the Temple. The Aaronite priesthood

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officiated. So soon as we think of the priesthood, we are prone to substitute "church"! But is that link-up fully correct? More careful analysis declares an emphatic NO! That ancient priesthood PRACTICED LAW! "*Woe unto you also, ye LAWYERS!*" (See *Lk. 11:46, 52.*) Undoubtedly, the Lord knew what He was talking about. So, to discern the prophetic voice by the ancient widow, we must look to "international LAW" as it came into being by various conferences in the Hague, Holland.

But in passing it might be well to mention that it was in 1886 that the SPLIT developed in their Church (Dutch Reformed, etc.).

And also in passing, perhaps a quick glance at their Royalty is also in place. Queen Wilhelmina commenced to reign in 1890, but under the regency of her mother until 1898, and married in 1901. The midpoint thereof may have been close to 1900 A.D. She became a widow in 1934, but reigned into the early '50s.

In 1891 a Dutch lawyer by the name of Asser "codified international law" (to such extent that international law had come into being).

On January 11, 1899, a "White Paper" (if I may use this name) was issued outlining the PRINCIPLES (such as the Geneva Conventions). On the 20th of May, 1899, 26 nations met at the Hague. At that conference THREE declarations were arrived at, dealing with (a) Peaceful Arbitration; (b) Rules of War, and (c) Adaptations of the Geneva Conventions.

In 1907 they met again for a second Conference in the Hague. It was that Conference which is considered to have laid out the principles which led to the "League of Nations" in Geneva. That in turn was superseded by the "United Nations."

My Dutch friend, who researched these matters, tells me that throughout the numerous pages involved, the Conven-

tion in 1899 is repeatedly referred to (apparently as BASIC to all later decisions). We also bear in mind that it was/is in the Hague where the Courts of Arbitration and Justice were established; and also houses the present "World Court" (of Justice).

Although developments took place from time to time in the decades which followed; it seems that we are well justified to go back into 1899 when and where the BASIC FOUNDATION came into being for future DECREES IN LAW AND INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE.

"How come" that it was/is in the Hague is not for us now to question. It was/is OF GOD! It was the BLESSING upon Asher – Jacob's son by Zilpah – Leah's maid. About 18 centuries later, a descendant of Asher was moved by the Holy Spirit to enter the Temple that she might bear witness unto Israel that their Messiah had been born into their midst. And also to show us that Holland (Asher) is prophesying in our midst.

Remember my earlier words: "A presentation had been brought unto the Lord God!!" The translation (rapture) of the Bride-elect shall fulfill its second phase!

In the Lord's intercessory prayer that last night, He said in part:

"And this is life eternal, that they might know Thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ (the Messiah), Whom Thou hast sent. I have glorified Thee on the earth: I have finished the work which Thou gavest Me to do. And now, O Father, glorify Thou Me with Thine own self with the glory which I had with Thee before the world was."

John 17:3-5

LIFE ETERNAL – said He – is to KNOW the All Highest and Jesus the Messiah. KNOWING Him is immensely more than just having heard about Him. And, as we come to KNOW Him ever more and more deeply, then do we also come to realize that His every word was/is the absoluteness of Truth –

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even in its several facets!

Must not a builder carefully attend to every little detail of the structure, continuously? And must not the foundation be planned and carefully executed?

Wherefore, should we not realize that here on earth when the Infant Messiah was brought and presented unto the Most High, that constituted a part of that foundation for His manifestation later on?

Simeon who had 'heard' God's Word, clearly and boldly declared Him to be the newborn Messiah – sent from God. THAT referred to the commencement. THEN entered the widow – full of years ($7 \times 12 = 84$) – to declare what the CONCLUSION should be at the end of the age. Do not "limit the Holy One of Israel."

As the LAW was given to Israel – which Israel was to bear unto the far-flung nations – so similarly has He wrought – even foreordained – that Holland (Asher) should be setting forth "International LAW of JUSTICE" for the entire World!!!

– MIKKEL DAHL



CHAPTER 12

JUDAH AND ISRAEL: The “2 Sticks”

“Thou son of man, take thee one stick and write upon it For Judah, and for the children of Israel his companions; then take another stick and write upon it, For Joseph, the stick of Ephraim, and for all the House of Israel his companions. And join them one to another into one stick; and they shall become one in thine hand.”

Ezekiel 37:16-17

It would be good to read all of *Ezekiel 37* through *verse 25*. I am prone to believe that the 2 sticks Ezekiel took into his hand, actually joined miraculously into one solid stick. That could be debated (the wording is not too clear).

After the death of king Solomon, the House of Jacob split in two. This division we find running back through history. Our Lord also said that He came to bring DIVISION – rather than PEACE. It is not that the Lord wants splits, but rather that thereby their own imperfections and follies become apparent. When in course of time there has been sufficient suffering – engendered by the friction – then man begins to THINK; and, IF the suffering has *cut* sufficiently deep, he turns to God.

By His words through Ezekiel we perceive that it is UNITY our Lord wants. But HOW can there be unity among mixed

children while nearly all set forth SELF? Similarly with adults and nations: as yet they are but 'youngsters', while Christians well matured in body, are as yet but children in Christ.

"By THIS shall all [people] KNOW that ye are My disciples, IF ye have LOVE one to the other."

John 13:35

SELF we behold everywhere. Children trying to take things from another; SELF with more dynamic behind it throughout entire life, and in every phase of life – except that most parents will sacrifice for their children. As to the nations – lamentably so! But through His mouthpiece, the Lord shows us He wants UNITY – unity arising through LOVE. Have you ever contemplated what life will be like when nearly everyone (*eventually* everyone) lives *for others* instead of for self? TO THAT END DID OUR LORD SACRIFICE, AND SUFFER EXCRUCIATING AGONY UNTO DEATH!! Thereby did He make possible that Edenic condition on earth, eventually. When the fruits of SELF have become overwhelmingly evident through ruin, desolation, deep suffering and death as overspreading the entire world by the close of the Armageddon and the Lord's return to earth, THEN will His Lifeseed within all Christ-believers be fanned into BRIGHTNESS. THEN will the world commence to witness the evidence of "abiding in Him, and His WORDS ABIDING in man" (*Jn. 15:7*).

In (and 'by') the prophetic drama performed by Ezekiel (according to the Lord's Word), the Prophet's right hand took Judah's stick, joining it to Israel's in his left hand. (The right and left not stated in Scripture – but by M.D.)

The right bespeaks the Power of God, made manifest on earth (the left). How? Or rather, what is its 'secret' formula? As we delve deep into the meaning of names, Judah is the extended *hand* (unto OTHERS) in and unto EXULTATION and PRAISE (which is the resultant *fruitfulness* [4]) of man's prodigious toil in Padan-aram (striving for eminence) in the



EPHRAIM

"And the name of the second called he Ephraim: For God hath caused me [Joseph] to be fruitful in the land of my affliction."

Genesis 41:52

THE BLESSING OF EPHRAIM BY JACOB/ISRAEL

"And Israel stretched out his right hand, and laid it upon Ephraim's head, who was the younger; and his left hand upon Manasseh's head, guiding his hands wittingly; for Manasseh was the firstborn. And he blessed Joseph, and said, God, before whom my fathers Abraham and Isaac did walk, the God which fed me all my life long unto this day, the Angel which redeemed me from all evil, bless the lads; and let my name be named on them, and the name of my fathers Abraham and Isaac; and let them grow into a multitude in the midst of the earth.

...Joseph...held up his father's hand, to remove it from Ephraim's head unto Manasseh's head. And Joseph said unto his father, Not so, my father: for this is the firstborn; put thy right hand upon his head.

And his father refused, and said, I know it, my son, I know it: he also shall become a people, and he also shall be great: but truly his younger brother shall be greater than he, and his seed shall become a multitude of nations. And he blessed them that day, saying, In thee shall Israel bless, saying, God make thee as Ephraim and as Manasseh: and he set Ephraim before Manasseh."

Genesis 48:13-20

THE BLESSING BY MOSES

"His [Joseph's] glory is like the firstling of his bullock, and his horns are like the horns of unicorns: with them he shall push the people together to the ends of the earth: and they are the ten thousands of Ephraim, and they are the thousands of Manasseh."

Deuteronomy 33:17

acquirement of possessions, although in subjection to the reputed righteousness (Laban = white) of the world system and laws, until *weariness of soul* is engendered (Leah = weariness). It is THAT fruit (Judah) which is wrought out in works (the extended hand) when melded into Joseph's stick in Ephraim's hand and all his companions' in Israel.

Joseph signifies that GOD WILL ADD (another). HE did (Benjamin = 'the son of my right hand')! Ephraim = 'Double fruitfulness', but at first that became in the land of Egypt (this world in the power of Lucifer).

Whereby we are expected to perceive that when the power (stick) of praise in the spirit of exultation, is manifest by the works and fellowship of the right hand, and extended unto those in helpless servitude to the conditions of this world (Joseph in bondage in Egypt), it brings forth double fruitfulness (Ephraim). The second phase (the double) of that fruitfulness is the spiritual maturity achieved, resulting in UNITY when receiving the spirit of PRAISE into the heart (thankfulness and praise unto God for ALL which is).

I have elsewhere shown you how '2', which is division, must have its sway until its phase of screening and CHOOSING (the GOOD), yields fruit ($2 \times 2 = 4$); which "choosing of the GOOD" when persisted in, eventually leads on to REgeneration ($2 \times 2 \times 2 = 8$ or, its cube).

EZEKIEL is addressed by the Lord as "*thou son of man*" (*Ezek. 2:1*), which also was Jesus' label applied to Himself (*Matt. 8:20; Matt. 16:13, et al.*). Thus our Lord gave through Ezekiel a PREview of that which is to be, when the sonS of man commence to manifest the power of God (significance of the name Ezekiel). And as already shown, we can transpose that – becoming the 'formula' unto POWER with God. That is, the 'formula' applies to individuals as well as to nations, or tribes.

It was JESUS of Nazareth as the first human being (of which we have any record) Who commenced to wield the power of

God. Some might counter: Moses did, and later, the Prophets in a lesser degree. But if you will carefully study the passages, you will find they only did so AFTER they had received God's specific word to do so. But in the ministry of Jesus, there is no such evidence. Not only is there lack of such evidence, but in some instances, His words preclude such a directive. As for instance, "...**I WILL, be thou clean!**" (Matt. 8:3). Had He first required a directive from Heaven, the "I will" would not have been spoken; but simply, "be clean."

Perhaps we should briefly reflect on the tribes involved. The FIRST stick was for Judah and for such as had become his companions out of the entire House of Israel. Judah was Leah's 4th son. That is, when WEARINESS of body and soul eventually engenders fruit, THEN do we align with the Will of God. Bear in mind it was from out of Judah's tribe, and the kingly line of David, that our Lord came to us. While in the allotment of land, Benjamin ('the son of my right hand' – said Jacob his father) got his portion adjoining Judah to the north. Actually, Jerusalem is within Benjamin's border (according to a Bible map before me). Symbolically, this does correctly depict the truth that the City of PEACE and Citadel of the KING OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, springs up among the 'Son(s) of my *Right* hand'.

Judah's was the chief Power-channel, which is precisely what we experience on the Christian path. AFTER we have "run ourselves ragged" in the "rat race," struggling unto weariness of soul, arriving at a measure of understanding, THEN we begin to 'extend our hand' unto "others"; which again leads on to Praise. It is not that our Lord is in any need of praise (He needs no "shot in the arm" to boost a sinking ego): it is WE who must arrive at that stage wherein we fully realize that our achievements derive from Blessings from on High: that it is not the prodigious amount of our toil, but what the FATHER grants us when we acknowledge and honor Him. The more deeply we come into this realization, the more genuinely we praise Him from a heart overspilling with gratitude. And this leads to POWER with God, though not

necessarily anything sensational.

"In truth I tell you: Whosoever shall not receive the Kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein!"

Mark 10:15

It is our dependence on the Lord which enables us to reach out the hand to OTHERS, and PRAISE our Heavenly Father. It is the "LITTLE child" who has no trace of fear or worry: he KNOWS, he LOVES and TRUSTS the father (parent). A friend and brother once wrote me about his effort to put this truth across to others. He worded it as the "ABSOLUTELY DEPENDENT ATTITUDE toward God." To him it seemed so important that he shortened it to A.D.A. Look to the quoted words of our Lord above: then you will realize how good it becomes for you to cultivate "ADA" from morning to noon and night, and from night unto morning. The LITTLE Child....

Next we behold the Stick of Joseph in the hand of Ephraim which, by command of God, Ezekiel took in his right hand, MELDING it to Judah's stick in his left hand.

Bear in mind that Joseph was constituted MASTER of Egypt, wherein also were born his sons Manasseh and Ephraim. Egypt depicts our materialistically-minded world society. But to become unified and fully acceptable unto the Lord, we must be melded to the Power channel of Praise and Adoration of the Father (after 'Judah' has been born and come to maturity).

THEN are we entitled to citizenship in the Land of Benjamin, ruled over by the Lord Jesus Christ, reigning on the Throne of David, KING of Righteousness in the City of PEACE.

— MIKKEL DAHL



CHAPTER 13

JACOB BLESSES HIS SONS

“Gather yourselves together, that I may tell you that which shall befall you in the last days. Gather yourselves together, and hear, ye sons of Jacob; and hearken unto Israel your father.”

Genesis 49:1-2

For the good of those less familiar with the prophecies upon Jacob’s sons, the spiritual identities of the historical 12 tribes of “Israel” will here be mentioned. Issachar represents present-day Finland; Zebulun depicts Norway; Gad, Denmark; Asher, Holland; Dan (“Babylon-Dan”) being the “white Russians”; Naphtali being Free Ireland; while Benjamin is little Wales, nestling “between the shoulders” of England and Scotland.

Admittedly, to brainwashed church congregations, the 12 tribes of Jacob are all within world Jewry. Yet, that is a contradiction to Jacob’s prophecy that there should be a “multitude” of peoples (nations).

Again, in some sections there is minor controversy as to Ephraim’s and Manasseh’s identities in our day. Wherefore, I repeat, and that with emphasis: *Ephraim is Great Britain; Manasseh is the U.S.A. and its possessions.* The prophecy’s proof thereof is: “...and let them grow into a multitude in the **MIDST OF THE EARTH.**” By those words, both Ephraim and Manasseh are included. But inasmuch as it is clearly stated that Ephraim is to be greater than Manasseh, that implies that Manasseh must go forth from Ephraim. That “the Pilgrims” did.

Fail not to observe “...*in the midst of the earth.*” No one needs be told today that Greenwich, England, is Zero degrees longitude: dividing between the numerous nations to the east, and that other vast multitude to the West! It is also the zero point for *time*: its Big Ben striking out the hours for the entire balance of the world!

“IN THE LAST DAYS”

When did “the last days” incept? I do not know, but we are able to think. When we speak of the “end” with reference to the understanding of the mooted prophecy, that involves a very limited segment of time. But when we come to the “last days” with reference to “Earth’s assembly of nations”: that’s different! Although I do not ‘know’, this is that which to me appears a must: our ‘work week’ is that of 6,000 years. Since Jacob’s 12 tribes KEY world destiny (see *Deut. 32:8*), we must allot the ‘week’ unto them. Hence, 6,000 years, divided unto them, become 500 per tribe. Therefore, that many years backtracked from the close of our century, becomes 1500 A.D. That takes on interest. Seventeen years later, Martin Luther launched that epochal work which commenced to show up the Devil’s deceptions! While John Wycliffe wound up the previous century by the great Spirit-Truths later repeated by the German Reformer.

Since that time, world history has stampeded, as never previously seen! And now, in the very last of the END-time days, all ethnic groups, as well as different religious factions, are willing to die in order to have a patch of ground (be that small or great) which they can call their own, instead of outside ‘Bully boys’ lording it over them! This was also prophesied by the Messiah, according to *Luke 21:29-31*. He spoke of “*all the trees*” (not only the Fig-tree nation of the Jews), but *all* nations and faiths! By these numerous and tumultuous world developments, we know for a certainty that we are not only in “the last days,” but also in the END-times – with only some few grains of sand still to empty....

To understand the prophetic blessings, we must bear ever in mind: "Jacob" is the 'replacer' or 'supplanter'; namely the Christian faith which replaced, or supplanted, the LAW. While "Israel" was/is that "Prince which had power with God, and prevailed." *That* becomes the combined Nations of Christendom!

"God Almighty appeared to me at Luz (the Almond tree [early awakener]) **...and blessed me."**

Genesis 48:3

"...When I came from Padan (a field), **Rachel** (a ewe) **died by me in the land of Canaan** (the low or nether-land) **in the way, when yet there was but a little way to come unto Ephrath** (fruitfulness): **and I buried her there in the way of Ephrath; the same is Bethlehem."**

Genesis 48:7

(Bethlehem is but a minor corruption of the original, be-speaking 'God's House of Bread'. Naturally, that became the Messiah's birthplace.)

"JACOB said unto Joseph..." The Supplanter, Christ; or the Christian faith, had but a short way to go unto "fruitfulness"! Therein we see much prophetic fulfillment. It is the ewe which mothers a lamb, even **"the Lamb of God which takes away the sin of the world"** (Jn. 1:29). Had their Messiah not been murdered, He would have established the Kingdom of God in Jerusalem by the age of 42 (about 8 years following the Cross, being the "short distance to go"). Similarly with the 'unshorn virgin of Christ'. Had they not sold out to Rome 3 centuries after Calvary, but continued 420 years, the Lord would have blessed their sacrifice.

Rachel cried out "Benoni" (the 'son of my sorrow'). The mother is the 'environment'. Ever since the Messiah and Calvary, the environment has ever sorrowed!! But the Supplanter said: "The son of my right hand!" On first thought, we would think of that as good. Maybe! But as we ponder more deeply, we perceive that his 'right' hand became the



Benjamin

"And it came to pass, as her soul was in departing, (for she died) that she [Rachel] called his name Benoni: but his father called him Benjamin."

Genesis 35:18

THE BLESSING OF BENJAMIN BY JACOB/ISRAEL

"Benjamin shall ravin as a wolf: in the morning he shall devour the prey, and at night he shall divide the spoil."

Genesis 49:27

THE BLESSING BY MOSES

"And of Benjamin he said, The beloved of the LORD shall dwell in safety by him; and the LORD shall cover him all the day long, and he shall dwell between his shoulders."

Deuteronomy 33:12

chief thrust: even Lucifer's interpretation of Christ; hence the ever-increasing sorrows (Benoni) incidental to sickness and decrepitude, death, wars, famines and unemployment! Nothing recorded in Scripture is to the credit of Benjamin unless we claim credit incidental to Saul – Israel's first king. But God said:

"I gave thee a king in Mine anger, and took him away in My wrath."

Hosea 13:11

Moreover, the Tribe of Benjamin was almost exterminated, incidental to their refusal to repent and make amends for the city's gutter-type rape of a woman!! (See *Jdg. 20.*) And as yet, present-day Benjamin wears no golden crown. Perhaps Saul of Tarsus became the prophetic type of Benjamin: first, the ruthless persecutor of Christians – hence of Christ – then later, the Builder of Gentile Churches! Perhaps Benjamin will still vindicate himself....

In *Genesis 48:13*, 'Israel' is twice mentioned as Joseph set his two sons before his father. Then in *verse 19* we read:

"...But truly, his younger brother shall become greater than he, his seed shall become a multitude of nations."

"Israel" prophesying! That has only been fulfilled by one Christian (Israel) nation. Even awesome to behold its pinpointedness, as just shown!

"Simeon and Levi are brethren; instruments of cruelty are in their habitations. O my soul, come not thou into their secret; unto their assembly, mine honour, be not thou united: for in their anger they slew a man, and in their self-will they digged down a wall. Cursed be their anger, for it was fierce; and their wrath, for it was cruel: I will divide them in Jacob, and scatter them in Israel."

Genesis 49:5-7

The name Simeon means 'hearing', but also 'division' because of being Jacob's 2nd son. Impossible is it to perceive

God's Truth-word unto us by these ancient dramas, unless we know the meaning of names and numbers! Levi means 'adhesion' and – being the 3rd son – ties in with God's truth-word unto us. We also bear in mind that much later, the tribe of Levi was selected by God to become His special servants, while a segment of that tribe, the House of Aaron, became the High Priesthood. *They* ministered the Divinely given LAW unto the people. And, we must continue to bear in mind that Jacob was the Replacer. Moses delivered the Law; Christ brought about the Christian faith on the Day of Pentecost following Calvary. Hence, Jacob, as the Supplanter of the Law, symbolized the Christian faith. But on his return from Padan Aram, at Jabbok ('pouring forth'), Jacob wrestled with a divine messenger until the break of day. Then did he receive the blessing, and – at which moment – he was named "Israel," having manifested "power with God"!

The Replacer was returning to his Homeland, having been a refugee, incidental to deceiving his father at his mother's request! Whenever Truth becomes but a 'joker' incidental to the environment (existing conditions and pressures), there is a heavy price to be paid. Jacob was deceived by having Leah given to him in marriage rather than Rachel, and later had his wages changed 10 times! But after 14 years plus 6, he wrestled at Jabbok! Then was the Spirit of Living Waters poured forth unto him; hence, not a mere 5,000 as the result of Pentecost, but WORLD CHRISTENDOM!

Shall we dwell a moment on those prophetic years in Padan Aram? Or, have you supposed that the entire drama "just chanced to happen that way"? GOD IS AN AWESOME REALITY! And the Destiny of nations eventuates according to His PREdetermined Plan. There were 14 years and 6. In the hands of Christ Almighty, Who manifests as 100 to One, those 20 ($14 + 6 = 20$) of the Replacer's life became 2,000 years ($20 \times 10 = 2000$) from the Infant Messiah's birth. But first there were 14 years until he paid for his 2 wives. In the highest sense, the wife is the spiritual, or inner part of man. Fourteen centuries; then what? John Wycliffe!! In the years 1329-

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'84 he translated most of the Vulgate into English, besides preaching unto numerous ones which would 'hear'. Surely you can imagine such horrendous *SINS* would provoke the Vatican. Consequently, his moldering body was exhumed in 1428, and burned! Should we suppose that British soil was then cleansed from the vile stains of such horrendous sins? Translating most of our Bible into English! (Could we ever hear of anything worse?) But **WHAT** said God Almighty about that very matter? *HEAR* – that you may *LIVE*!

Joseph was no sooner born than Jacob requested of Laban ('white') permission to return to Canaan, because his 14 years of service had then been filled. **FOURTEEN** centuries to pay for the 2 wives: Roman Catholicism and the Protestant Faith in Christ the Redeemer. Rachel the Ewe was the beautiful girl whom Jacob loved: she was the last one received, and hence, the last one paid for! But about one century was still required for **TRUTH** to filter into human souls. Eventually the German monk, Martin Luther, awakened, taking Germany by such storm that slumbering Europe awoke – as by shock! Thousands of throats cried out: "To the flames! To the flames (with Martin Luther)!" But because powerful German princes in those day stood by him, we have the joyous liberty of the Christian Faith.

But 6 more years (600) were entailed, working for wages (livestock). Although we have gained property, and hence wealth, **WHAT** has that netted us (especially in the sight of God)? **ANIMALS**! The human **SUBstrata**! Those who never think may glory in our "democracies" which have seen 2 World Wars and now on the brink of a 3rd. Also, chemistry and nuclear fission should be mentioned, between the two of which our soil, water and air are so polluted that we are heading for extinction, unless...!

Did you notice that 'white' name (Laban)? And he was from Padan Aram. All joined together become the White ones from the world's most elevated and progressive Fields (Padan)! Or, could it be that as yet you are not aware, that **ALL** ancient lands of Christendom are **WHITE**?!! But our

Leaders – all of which have been raised up from their thrones in very Hell (see *Isa. 14:9*), now stand with open arms to receive multitudinous non-Christians; all building up unto our children great conflicts, unless Christ returns to prevent!

But we were supposed to look more closely at Simeon and Levi. *...I will divide them in Jacob and scatter them in Israel*” (*Gen. 49:7*). The dividing incepted on the Day of Pentecost when Simeon HEARD God’s Word. But Levi, the Lawgiver, stood firm into 70 A.D., by the Autumn of which the Jews as a nation were no more! The dividing was then absolute and complete! HIS prophetic word fulfilled to a “T”! *“...and scatter them in Israel.”* The latter today (Israel) becomes the nations of Christendom. Has not Christendom had untold millions which have HEARD (Simeon) God’s word? And similarly, other untold millions which never “heard,” continue to ‘cleave’ (Levi) to the previous; among them virtually all of world Jewry!

Yet let us look again; let us make certain that we never “limit the Holy One of Israel” (see *Ps. 78:41*) (even though the enthroned from Hell, repudiate Him)!

In these very Endtime days we behold its higher octave manifestation. Speaking to and concerning Simeon and Levi, Jacob said: *“Instruments of cruelty are in their habitation”* (*Gen. 49:5*)!! Need you be told about the “Spanish Inquisition”? Yet “persecution” was not confined to Spain. It was widespread over Europe. For a century and more, Spain’s Latin blood made headlines! Could God have been in error when speaking by Jacob’s lips, saying “CRUELTY” is in their habitations? The persecution centered on those who had ‘heard’! (Simeon.)

“Cursed be their anger, for, IT WAS FIERCE” (*Gen. 49:7*)! Shall we believe God – or, swallow the poisoned fish that it was safeguarding the Purity of the Faith once delivered to the saints? *“I will scatter them in Israel.”* WE – the lands of Christendom – have within our borders vast multitudes who have ‘heard’ (in a measure); thus constituting the “separa-

tion" from Roman Catholicism.

"The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor a Lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come; and unto Him shall the gathering of the people be."

Genesis 49:10

The Sceptre is the ruling, or Absolute power which – previous to 70 A.D. – was the House of Aaron among the Jews. The *"lawgiver from between his feet"* could refer to the Priesthood and/or their kings, such as Saul and David. Wherefore, as we pause to ponder that prophecy, we realize it became a historical must that their Messiah had to be a past fact by the Autumn of 70 A.D. (!), when the Jews – as a nation – were no more! "And unto Him shall the gathering of the people be!"

As we ponder the substance of that prophecy, we realize that the LAW was no more (in the sight of God), for their Messiah was the Replacer, or Supplanter of the Law. Wherefore, the people were to "gather unto Him" instead of to the House of Aaron.

"Joseph is a fruitful bough, even a fruitful bough by a well; whose branches run over the wall: the archers have sorely grieved him, and shot at him, and hated him: but his bow abode in strength, and the arms of his hand were made strong by the hands of the mighty God of Jacob; (FROM THENCE is the Shepherd, the Stone of Israel)...."

Genesis 49:22-24

It is that prophetic passage which adds much to my confidence that likely sometime in the near future, several more are likely to join Jerusalem. But the questioning thought remains: "Will all of them be 'true blue'? Or, will many adopt only *in part*?" But "...the Shepherd, the Stone of Israel" is fully clear.

We know THE SHEPHERD, and we know that He was *"a STONE of stumbling"* (Isa. 8:14) unto Jacob's two Houses; as

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well as the Chief Corner Stone which *"the builders rejected"* (*Matt. 21:42; Ps. 118:22; Isa. 28:16*). But here comes the difference: the foregoing is *tied to Joseph!*

It has also been shown that much prophecy re-fulfills in a higher octave. Great Britain became the head of a *"company of nations"* (*Gen. 35:11*) *"in the midst of the earth"* (*Gen. 48:16*). Wherefore, we may again see Great Britain as the Head of a Spiritually-founded kingdom on earth. Even as in the long ago it was the great colonizer.

But two matters remain unanswered:

WHEN will the British boot to hell the Devil's so-called "democracy"? And secondly, will their God-founded kingdom be "true blue" to Jerusalem; or just a partial accommodation thereto?

And, since both Ephraim and Manasseh partook in much of the blessings, we may expect the U.S.A. to also switch over. But will they be fully true to that which the British achieve, or will their history repeat? Howbeit, that should not be our concern for the moment.

THAT which is of tremendous importance now, becomes: Are YOU prepared to "wrestle all night" to win the blessing that shall grant you to "see the face of God" when the 10th of Nisan strikes in whatever the year? But IF in that you fail, remember that Jacob said: "I have become two camps"! That second camp – as you should know by now – becomes "the blessed guest bidden to the marriage of the Lamb"! (See *Rev. 19:9*.)

We can look somewhat beyond that, too. Shortly following the morning's blessing, Jacob proceeded homeward. But shortly he was met by his elder brother, and with him 400 men. Apparently, Esau was happy to again see his brother. The 400 men he led is the lower octave of the 4,000 at the Messiah's birth. In other words, bespeaking the Kingdom here on earth and its immortals....

Brother, sister, friend: WHAT GLORIOUS DESTINY IS

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NOW HAMMERING AT YOUR VERY DOOR!! But forget not: it calls for strenuous WRESTLING throughout the balance of this “night,” which the Lord also forecast.

Forget not: HE is fully willing to bestow that wondrous blessing – even unto seeing the very face of God; that calls for determined wrestling until Sunrise....

“Peniel” be unto you.

– MIKKEL DAHL



CHAPTER 14

THE PROPHETIC TRIBES OF ISRAEL

Much has been written by researchers and students of prophecy and peoples, in an effort to LINK the nations of today with the tribes and nations of early Bible times. But when we compare their findings, we realize that their conclusions are not in agreement, and hence not worthy of our full confidence. Neither is it a simple matter to trace the ancestry of any ancient people. Indeed it is simple enough to write on paper that such and such a tribe or people were overrun by King So-and-So, and some few hundred years showed up elsewhere under some given NEW name. But such 'TRACINGS' – on paper – are much inspired by wishful thinking, and written largely for the gullible. By far the better method is to take the Word of God *just as it stands*; apply it according to the specified principles involved, and abide by the results. Although judgment could err on some minor issue, yet the sum and substance of our conclusions shall be vindicated by history!

And moreover, it is indeed sheer folly to assume that merely because a certain nation *may* be the blood descendants of so-and-so, that God is bound this day to do either this or that. We have but to look to the venerable Record – where we find the very contrary! This idea of “**WE ARE IT**” seems to have leaped into life in the days of Moses, when Korah, Dathan, and Abiram said unto Moses and Aaron:

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"...Ye take too much upon you, seeing ALL THE CONGREGATION ARE HOLY, EVERY ONE OF THEM, And the Lord is among them...."

"...They, and all that appertained to them, went down alive into the pit...."

Numbers 16:3,33

Then came the days of David and Solomon when the 'kingdom' was faithfully promised, and should be established "forever"! But stupid, stiffnecked Israel trusted to its 'blood-paternity', refusing to realize that GOD would not countenance an ever-increasing iniquity among people. So, the northern, 10-tribed kingdom was uprooted and cast out from its Eden. So complete was the dispersion that they never attempted a comeback (as a nation). And a century and a half later, the wickedness of Judah became so great that – OUT THEY WENT!

Without dispute, Judah-Israel of those days were the seed of Abraham-Isaac-Jacob. Yet that blood paternity did not save them. Seventy years later God permitted a representative number among them to return – that THE WAY OF THE REDEEMER MIGHT BE PREPARED. But the fact that they were the "chosen seed" did not help them in the days of the Alexandrian and Roman empires. Again and again had the story repeated! And in the days of Jesus, the leaders were so cocksure that God had then ESTABLISHED their Kingdom, that they said within themselves:

"...This is THE heir; come let us kill him and cast him out, THEN the Kingdom (inheritance) shall be OURS!"

Mark 12:7

Yet again the story so tragically repeated, and that time for keeps ("for the eon"). God LOVED them – as the seed of Abraham-Isaac-Jacob and He still does. Yet He never RESPECTED them merely because of their blood paternity. God LOVES but will not *respect* ANYONE steeped in iniquity!

Therefore it is folly to look to blood paternity (even though

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we were sure of its tracings), banking on 'promises' concerning which God has made numerous *reservations*!

NOW, let us look to His Word in the *spirit of Righteousness* and discern His eonian purpose. When we correctly UNDERSTAND *His purpose*, then shall we have little difficulty in perceiving the future – even to THE CONFLICT OF THE AGES!

Come, then, let us briefly review a few Scripture highlights that we may get to the SUBSTANCE of the issue as God sees it. After that we shall see WHO *His* people are:

“And God said unto the serpent...I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.”

Genesis 3:14-15

Far too long have we built colleges and seminaries, “teaching for doctrine the tradition of men.” Teachers have we appointed unto ourselves who *ENLARGE on the letter*; yet discern not its spirit, even as the Pharisees in the days of Jesus. And to emphasize to us that they exult in the “letter” (ignoring the spirit) they affix to their names a number of DEAD LETTERS!

There is nothing wrong in believing that the incident referred to in the above Scripture, took place as recorded; neither the factual veracity of other incidents similarly recounted. But the sorry error lies in supposing for a split moment that God was talking about snakes and women! What a concept of the Creator!

The earlier story depicts how God had given unto man (“made out of the ground”) something REFINED and ennobled – as it were – to be a HELP and a COMPANION for the earthly man. This portrays the human SOUL, which, although it is called the LIFE of man, is also a SUBSTANCE, or finer vehicle within the outer shell. Through the MEDIUM of this ‘soul’ comes man’s ASPIRATION unto that which is better: hence, EVERY man’s companion and helper (not for

the married alone). Thus, through the forces of the SOUL (Eve), arose DESIRE, even the desire to know what it was all about! Therefore is it said that it “looked good” to Eve (the human SOUL) to also eat of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil – that her eyes might become fully opened. (The details of this are dealt with in the writer’s *TABERNACLE* series.)

When, with THIS thought in mind, we look again at the Word of God, we see His telling us that there should be enmity between the human SOUL – and its seed or fruit – and the BESTIAL NATURE which grovels in the filth, and lives in and for the sake of its carnal nature (belly). Further, He tells us that eventually the fruit of the human Soul should bruise or injure the INTELLIGENTSIA of carnality (even unto its demon-director); while the carnal nature – spurred and vivified by its demon-director – should injure the heel of the soul’s FRUIT. Here the heel bespeaks the lowest earthly, or that of the human body. (Unquestionably, the prophecy therein was realistically fulfilled in and through the life and ministry of Jesus of Nazareth). Later we read how God spoke to Abram, saying:

*“...Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred
...UNTO A LAND THAT I WILL SHOW THEE ...and I will
bless thee...and thou shalt be a blessing.”*

Genesis 12:1-2

FACTUALLY true, no doubt, but we “limit the Holy One of Israel” when we suppose that God has espied a special hunk of land which He coveted for Abram! Geographical locations have their part in His plan, nevertheless we must realize that ‘land’ of *terra firma* is the least of God’s concern. As so abundantly made clear to us in later Scriptures, the land of Canaan was a type of HEAVEN. In other words, God was calling to the SPIRIT in man (Abram = the ‘High Father’) saying: come to your senses and GET OUT of the land wherein you dwell (the world and its worldliness), and I will SHOW YOU A LAND (Canaan = the Heaven-world) which your SEED

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shall inherit, and THEN I shall bless you!

Thus, God commenced to implement the message He had earlier given to the human SOUL with reference to ENMITY between the carnal and the spiritual natures. NOW He spoke directly to the SPIRIT in man, saying: GET OUT of your carnality and stop fraternizing with the intelligentsia of the world (the Chaldeans), THEN shall I bless you!

A little later on He spoke again to the SPIRIT (Abram) in man, saying:

“...I am the Almighty God; walk before Me, and be thou PERFECT...and (I) will multiply thee exceedingly... And ye shall circumcise the flesh of your foreskin; and it shall be a TOKEN OF THE COVENANT betwixt Me and you.”

Genesis 17:1-2,11

God is of great patience – even though man is carnal, and SLOW to learn. As if the mere ritual practice of cutting into human skin and flesh could make any difference to God. But when man shears off the predominant token of his carnality (in spirit and truth), THEN is God pleased with him (who strives to “be perfect”), and God promises unto such to be his God and to multiply him exceedingly (to give him much spirit-fruit).

Yet God kept His literal word – that it might speak to us more effectively through the drama of a nation’s life! So, a little later on, the ‘promise’ was repeated to Jacob, and steps taken to further implement it. But Jacob, by name, was *‘the Replacer’*. He was the SMOOTH man who held the heel of his hairy, ruddy brother. And by the aid of his mother, he was crafty enough to win his father’s blessing (the birthright blessing of the firstborn). And still later on Jacob himself was REnamed by God (to Israel) to further denote a replacement, or the changing from one to another.

Here then, cryptically, God shows us that the carnal, hairy man of earth (Esau) *is not to enter into the fullest blessing*, but that his younger, spirit-aspiring brother (coveting the spirit-

heritage of his father's blessing) would enter into the birth-right. Later, this was again – as it were – STEPPED UP once more by God Himself when He changed Jacob's name to that of Israel, or 'God's princely servant'.

First God shows us in thinly veiled language how the wisdom of THIS WORLD must be left behind, and the carnality of the EARTHLY man sheared right off, THEN will He bless! Then He commences to show us the same TRUTH through the drama of one man and the nation he begets; that it is imperative to heavenward aspire, leaving ever further behind the carnality of the hairy, beast-like man, in order that we may fully enter into the heritage and Spirit-blessing (covenant) of the Father – even God!

NOW we begin to see how God is not primarily concerned over one measure of provisions stated, but rather interested in the man and the people with a SOUL for higher values; and finally to dote on the one WHO WILL REALLY GO ALL OUT TO SERVE GOD – *for righteousness sake!*

THAT is the highlighted KERNEL of the Esau-Jacob-Israel drama.

And to this clearly attests the fluent Paul in his remarkable vision of God's EONIAN purpose, when he says that:

"...they are not all Israel, which are OF Israel. Neither, because they are the seed of Abraham, are they all children... That is, they which are the children of the flesh, THESE ARE NOT THE CHILDREN OF GOD: but the children of the (Spirit) promise ARE COUNTED FOR THE SEED!"

Romans 9:6-8

"For he is NOT A JEW, which is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh: But he is a Jew, which is one INWARDLY; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the Spirit...."

Romans 2:28-29

Those are not the words of this writer, but the inspired

Word of God through none less than the zealous Paul. CLEARLY does he state that the blood-paternity DOES NOT determine the issue with God, but the people who, through FAITH, are BORN OF THE SPIRIT, THEY BECOME THE CHILDREN OF GOD AND ARE COUNTED FOR THE SEED!

In other words, it is of little and debatable value to claim paternity to this one or that one, for God looks to the heart and the SPIRIT in man, and unto such as HAVE ACCEPTED HIM IN SPIRIT AND TRUTH – they are counted for the seed (of the promise).

But then, what of Jacob-Israel and the nation he fathered? They constitute a type, a picture or PATTERN OF CHRISTENDOM, WITH ITS END-TIME DESTINY! (Yes, read that again, for, it means exactly what it says.) Christendom has accepted God through Jesus Christ, and, although we are far from the “perfection” asked of Abram, we are nevertheless – by whatsoever standard might be advanced – head, shoulders, and trunk over and above that of any non-Christian nation on the face of the earth. (The only partial exception to this is the modern Jew, but don’t overlook the fact that the worthwhile among them *have been fostered in Christian lands.*)

The only value attached to being of blood paternity to Abraham-Isaac, is when all other factors ARE EQUAL, then such blood relationship will be considered first and more favorably than the one who lacks it *with reference to the earthly Kingdom.* But aside from the earthly Kingdom, such paternity cannot sway the RIGHTEOUSNESS of God. Nor yet with an UNBROKEN descent from Jacob can any favor be won UNLESS SPIRITUALLY MERITED!

The reader who has fed on “the doctrines of men” and been ‘hopped up’ by the snare and delusion of a blood paternity teaching, should carefully read *Jeremiah 38:7-13* and *39:15-18*. There are we clearly shown GOD’S RIGHTEOUSNESS and the matter in which He deals with those who are “the seed of Abraham” *through a Living Faith.* For, Ebed-melech, the Ethiopian eunuch who certainly had not the least

blood relationship to Isaac, received a SPECIAL MESSAGE FROM GOD ALMIGHTY, relayed by Jeremiah, and given unconditional assurance that in the days of danger ahead, his life should be spared, and his fears should not come upon him, “...because thou hast put thy trust in Me...” said God to him. Then contrast the grace unto that Negro, and his fate, to the lack of grace and the deplorable fate which was meted out to “the NOBLES of Judah,” and even unto the “ROYAL SEED” (of David!). Almost the worst fate possible came upon the “Royal Seed” – who were the HEIRS of the covenant and the sole expectant ones of “the sure mercies unto DAVID.” Yet, while he who wasn’t even a man(!), but a humble proselyte to the faith and with black skin, WAS SINGLED OUT BY GOD FOR A SPECIAL MESSAGE OF COMFORT, WHILE GRACE WAS POURED OUT TO HIM, AND A SPECIAL GUARDIAN MESSENGER ASSIGNED HIM, THAT HIS DAYS MIGHT BE PROLONGED IN PEACE! (Yes, ponder that well!)

These Spirit-Truths of God’s righteousness were known unto His elected messengers such as Jeremiah, and even much later by John the Baptist. The latter, knowing the *opium* of false doctrines which simulated the Pharisees of his day, spoke boldly in DENUNCIATION of that lie by declaring:

“And think not to say within yourselves, we have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you, that God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham.”

Matthew 3:9

Yet inflated egos traverse the breadth of our land, lulling people into a spiritual slumber in the utterly false security of a blood paternity to Abraham-Isaac-Jacob.

We have now seen the folly of trusting to the flesh. And we have viewed God’s righteousness in dealing out the prizes to those SPIRITUALLY WORTHY in preference to those of specified pedigree. We have also seen how God has tried to “hammer home” this TRUTH by repeatedly declaring, and showing the preference for the younger! It first commenced

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in the life of father Abraham, where his firstborn Ishmael was not to be counted as his heir, but the birthright held up in anticipation of Isaac. Then unto Isaac were born Esau-Jacob, of whom it was said by God that *"the elder shall serve the younger."* Again the same repeated in Egypt when Jacob blessed his grandsons, first singling out the younger for the special blessing. ALL THIS to conform to the BASIC TRUTH that FIRST is the earthly man, who, through experience and suffering in the process of time, develops the inner spiritual man of the heart, who is then his own YOUNGER SELF. Then the BODY or carnal man is disciplined, and becomes more and more the servant of the younger, or spirit-self. Similarly with people and nations. The mental and spiritual rise to become the masters of the purely earthly and carnal types. And THIS IS THE DIVINE ELECTION BY GOD: the earthly and carnal must give way to the man with a SOUL; and finally the man of the SOUL must yield to the fully sublimated and SANCTIFIED by His Spirit. They are the 100-fold, in contrast to the former 60 and 30-fold.

We are now prepared to look about with more discernment in scanning the nations, and correctly IDENTIFYING them in God's eonian plan. But proper identification calls for a careful consideration of what God has said about His "chosen people."

Let us first begin with the two who were eliminated.

"Simeon and Levi are brethren...Cursed be their anger, for it was fierce; and their wrath, for it was cruel: I will divide them in Jacob, and SCATTER THEM in Israel."

Genesis 49:5,7

As for Levi, we know that because of the Priesthood, "the Lord was their possession," therefore they had no inheritance in the land like unto their brethren. But Simeon we observe was given a parcel of land south of Judah! So why did Jacob say he would "scatter him in Israel"? Considered thus, we see clearly that Jacob was speaking of a LATER DAY and different conditions under which Levi and Simeon were

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not to be found as separate national entities! It is in itself a PROOF that WE are living in the days of LATTER ISRAEL, and shall see (and are seeing) the fulfillment of Jacob's prophecies unto his sons for "the LAST days."

Of the fourth son it was said:

"Judah, thou art he whom thy brethren shall praise.... The scepter shall not depart...until Shiloh come; and unto him shall the gathering of the people be."

Genesis 49:8,10

"Hear, Lord, the voice of Judah...and be thou an help to him from his enemies."

Deuteronomy 33:7

There we see how Judah was elected to be the progenitor of the Messiah, while Moses invoked A SPECIAL PROTECTIVE BLESSING that should keep him against his enemies and thus MAINTAIN HIS IDENTITY! And Judah has remained as such unto this day; while under his protective banner are a representative number of the other tribes. Next we see that:

"Joseph is a fruitful bough...whose branches run over the wall.... The blessings of thy father have prevailed above the blessings of my progenitors unto the utmost bound of the everlasting hills: they shall be on the head of Joseph...."

Genesis 49:22,26

"His glory is like the firstling of his bullock, and his horns are like the horns of unicorns: with them he shall push the people together TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH: and they are the ten thousands of Ephraim, and they are the thousands of Manasseh."

Deuteronomy 33:17

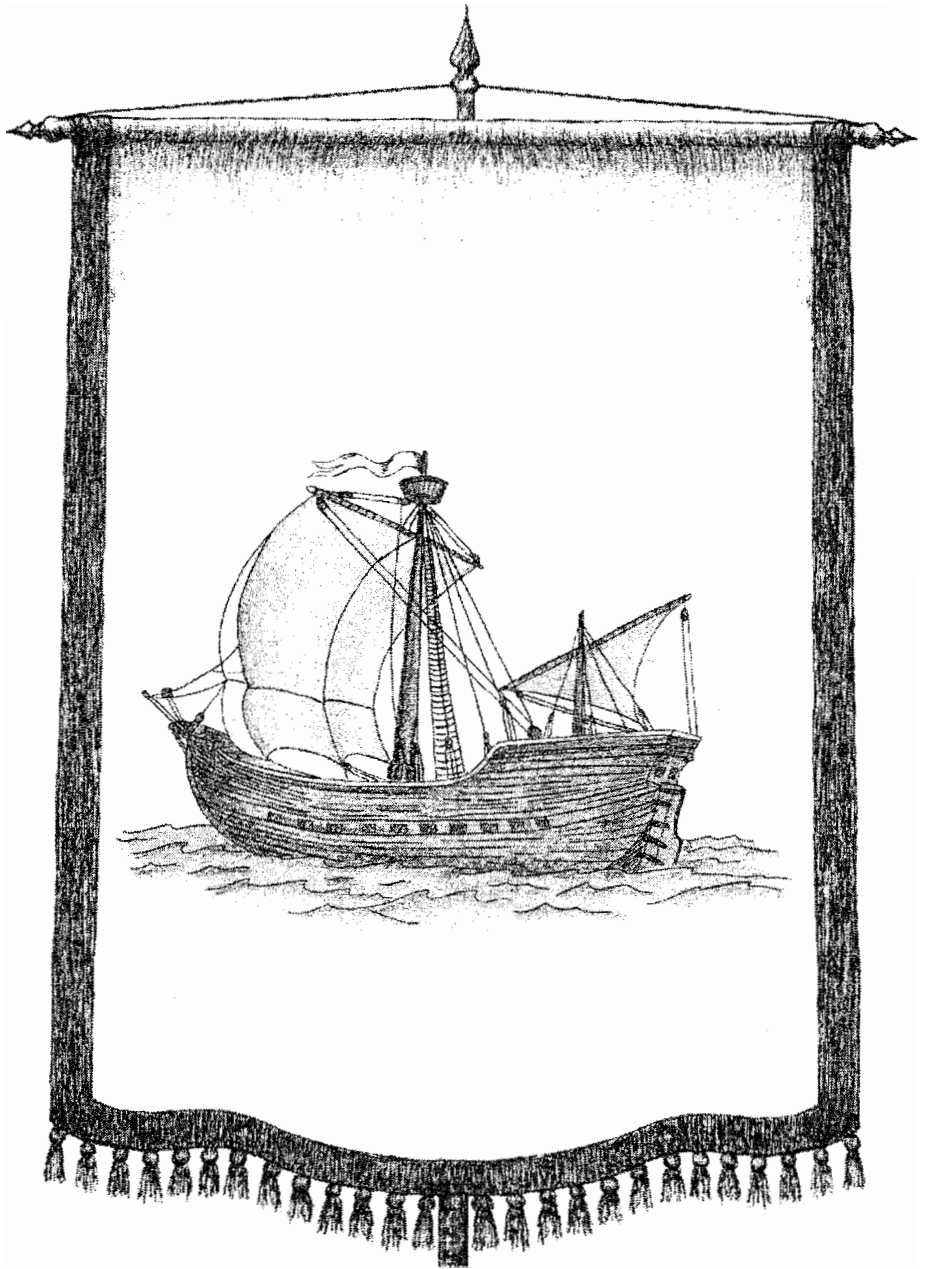
First it was clearly stated by Jacob and later confirmed by Moses, that the temporal blessings of Joseph should far exceed that of his brethren. So, when we first see the "fruitful bough with overrunning branches," and later the "horns that

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shall push together the people to the ends of the earth," we scan the breadth of Christendom and find but ONE people who come anywhere near the scope of the sweeping blessings: *they are the British*. Theirs and theirs only have been the outflowing BRANCHES, the HORNS of which have "pushed the people unto the ends of the earth." And observe carefully: whether or not there is one drop of ancient Jacob's blood in the veins of the British people IS ENTIRELY BESIDE THE ISSUE!! But Great Britain FULFILLS THE PROPHECY, and is therefore the spiritual counterpart of Joseph in these "LAST days." God's Spirit-law of TRANSFERENCE, from the earthly to the more spiritual (man), takes care of all (paternal) requirements! Of Ephraim and Manasseh it was said that they should become a multitude in the midst of the earth, while Ephraim was to become greater, whose seed should become a "*multitude of nationS*" (Gen. 48:19).

Today, Great Britain and America ANSWER to Ephraim and Manasseh, respectively. Even though it appears at the moment that America may be a greater WORLD POWER in the very last days, they are but ONE rather than a "*multitude of nationS*"—which the seed of Ephraim was to become. These two comprise the "house of Joseph." They are made up of the Scots and the English. We should observe that Manasseh received TWO portions of land, one on either side of the Jordan. Similarly see we that but a small group of "Pilgrims" left the isles and became the nucleus of the present great America.

We could also reflect on the meaning of their names. Manasseh is he who '*makes to forget*'. In other words, a people of sports and entertainment. We may traverse the earth, but it is doubtful that anywhere will we find a people who have gone in for sports and entertainment the way America has! Ephraim is '*double fruitfulness*' which answers to the many nations which have sprung up, bound by ties of blood and affection to Great Britain, (Canada, New Zealand, Australia and others).



ZEBULUN

“And Leah said, God hath given me my hire, because I have given my maiden to my husband: and she called his name Issachar.”

Genesis 30:18

THE BLESSING OF ISSACHAR BY JACOB/ISRAEL

“Issachar is a strong ass couching down between two burdens: and he saw that rest was good, and the land that it was pleasant; and bowed his shoulder to bear, and became a servant unto tribute.”

Genesis 49:14-15

THE BLESSING BY MOSES

“And of Zebulun he said, Rejoice, Zebulun, in thy going out; and, Issachar, in thy tents. They shall call the people unto the mountain; there they shall offer sacrifices of righteousness: for they shall suck of the abundance of the seas, and of treasures hid in the sand.”

Deuteronomy 33:18

"And Leah said, God hath endued me with a good dowry; now will my husband dwell with me, because I have born him six sons: and she called his name Zebulun."

Genesis 30:20

THE BLESSING OF ZEBULUN BY JACOB/ISRAEL

"Zebulun shall dwell at the haven of the sea; and he shall be for an haven of ships; and his border shall be unto Zidon."

Genesis 49:13

THE BLESSING BY MOSES

"And of Zebulun he said, Rejoice, Zebulun, in thy going out; and, Issachar, in thy tents. They shall call the people unto the mountain; there they shall offer sacrifices of righteousness: for they shall suck of the abundance of the seas, and of treasures hid in the sand."

Deuteronomy 33:18

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Of Benjamin, the full brother of Joseph, Moses said:

"...The beloved of the Lord shall dwell in safety by him; and the Lord shall cover him all the day long, AND HE SHALL DWELL BETWEEN HIS SHOULDERS."

Deuteronomy 33:12

This implies that he will be a small nation, few in number, and dwelling between the shoulders of his older brother Joseph. (The shoulders of Joseph are Ephraim and Manasseh.) THAT makes his identification easy and his placement certain: namely, Wales. His name betokens a greater *spiritual* nature, lacking in the elements of worldly conquest. [It is interesting to note that history records the great Welsh revivals. -J.R.W.]

Jacob's second son through Rachel (by Bilhah) was Naphtali, and the name betokens 'wrestling', or a 'great struggle'.

Jacob's great love for Rachel seems to have permeated his offspring by and through her. For, we observe in the LAST DAYS how closely knit together are the English, Scots, and Welsh. And now for Naphtali we find Moses saying:

"O Naphtali, SATISFIED WITH FAVOR, and full of the blessing of the Lord, POSSESS THOU THE WEST AND THE SOUTH."

Deuteronomy 33:23

There again we have an implication of close relationship and the propinquity to one greater, from whom favor shall be received. This we would logically look for from his closer brethren. And he is readily located in that we are told he shall possess the West and the South. 'Ireland' is that "*blessing of the Lord*" and the "*favor*" comes from Great Britain proper. Looking at the map we see how Ireland is to the WEST of the British Isles, and NOW they are by the SOUTHERN part (principally). The struggle phase of the name seems to link closely with Irish history.

Dan was the other son of Bilhah, but his was a strange and

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peculiar fate, and we shall reserve him unto the last. (Years ago when reading a booklet by a mouthpiece of the 'cultists', he said of Dan: "ScanDANavia"! Which is but an example of the puerile reasoning and research (?) by those who claim to have traced blood ancestries right back to Jacob!)

"Zebulun shall dwell at the haven of the sea, and he shall be for an haven of ships...."

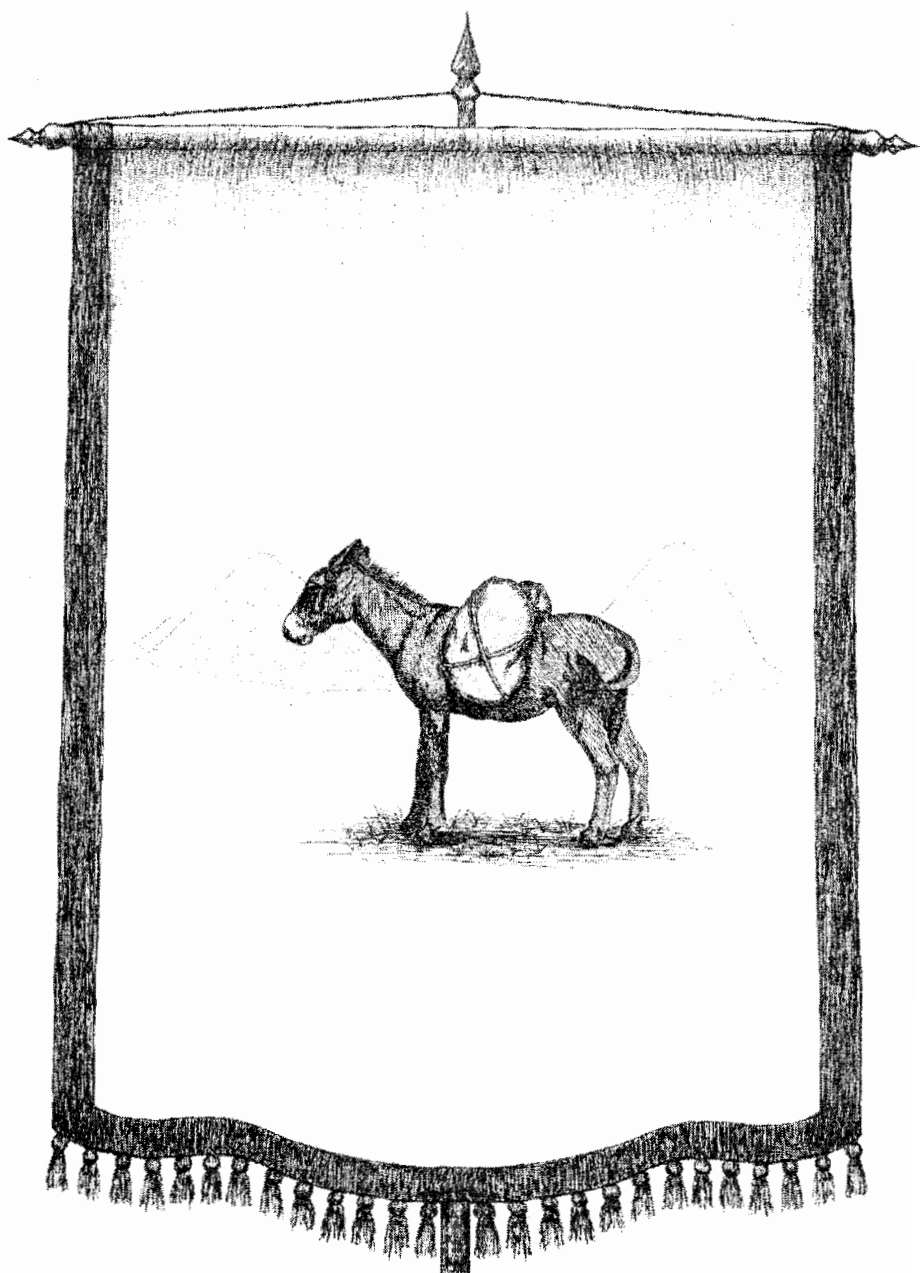
Genesis 49:13

"...Rejoice, Zebulun, in thy going out; and, Issachar, in thy tents. They shall call the people unto the mountain; there they shall offer sacrifices of righteousness: for they shall suck of the abundance of the seas, and of treasures hid in the sand."

Deuteronomy 33:18,19

The name Zebulun has been translated as 'intercourse', but the writer sees it as 'communion'. We know that Zebulun bordered the Sea in the Holy Land, and was used as a port, but those times were not "the last days" of which Jacob prophesied. So, in these truly last days, we find of all Christian nations but ONE which is truly outstanding for its "haven of ships," namely: Norway. That they gather of the abundance of the seas and the treasures of the sand, goes without dispute. The fact that they should call their people unto the mountain and offer sacrifices of righteousness, foretells of two important factors. First, that they shall be predominantly a RELIGIOUS people, and secondly, that their fate shall see them in straitened situations, when they shall be driven to the mountains and there spend time in great intercession to God. This was fulfilled during the Nazi occupation of Norway during the last war, and, in all probability will fulfill again in the approaching war when they shall likely be invaded and overrun.... And as their name signifies, they are a hospitable people and given to a deep faith in God (even though elements abound which are rotten to the core, where even the hiss of the serpent is heard through its Quislings).

"Issachar is a strong ass couching down between two bur-



İSSACHAR

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dens... and became a servant unto tribute."

Genesis 49:14,15

It is natural that we should find these sons of Leah so close together in the last days. For, Issachar is none else than overburdened Finland, whose land is pleasant but burdensome, to which has been added a second burden, namely that of subservience to its big neighbor: Russia! Finland has in the past been "tributary" to Russia, and, in all probability, will be again. In fact, the present situation is ALMOST that as it is! And the meaning of the name is the same, being 'reward' or 'tribute'. Incidentally, they are a very religious people, the fervency of which, perhaps, has been added to by the burdensome oppression they have known.

"Reuben, thou art my firstborn, my might, and the beginning of my strength...unstable as water; thou shalt not excel...."

Genesis 49:3,4

"Let Reuben live, and not die; and let not his men be few."

Deuteronomy 33:6

Reuben's name 'Behold, a SON!', together with the words of his father in the blessing, denotes qualities of greatness, yet because of his lewd sin, his father denied him to "EXCEL," which otherwise he likely would have done.... Moses in his compassion interceded for Reuben because father Jacob had left him no blessing whatever!

And so, the END-time Reuben – through the Law of God's TRANSFERENCE by the ELECTING power of the Spirit FOR THE CHILDREN OF THE SPIRIT – is in close proximity to his full blood brothers: Issachar and Zebulun. Christian Sweden today ANSWERS to Reuben of the ages gone by. And they have indeed showed much of the qualities of "excellence and dignity," but "unstableness" has prevented their retaining any powers gained. *"Let not his men be few"* prayed Moses. So we find him today with a population greater than that of Finland and Norway combined.

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"GAD, a troop shall overcome him: but he shall overcome at the last."

Genesis 49:19

"...He dwelleth as a lion and TEARETH THE ARM WITH THE CROWN OF THE HEAD."

Deuteronomy 33:20

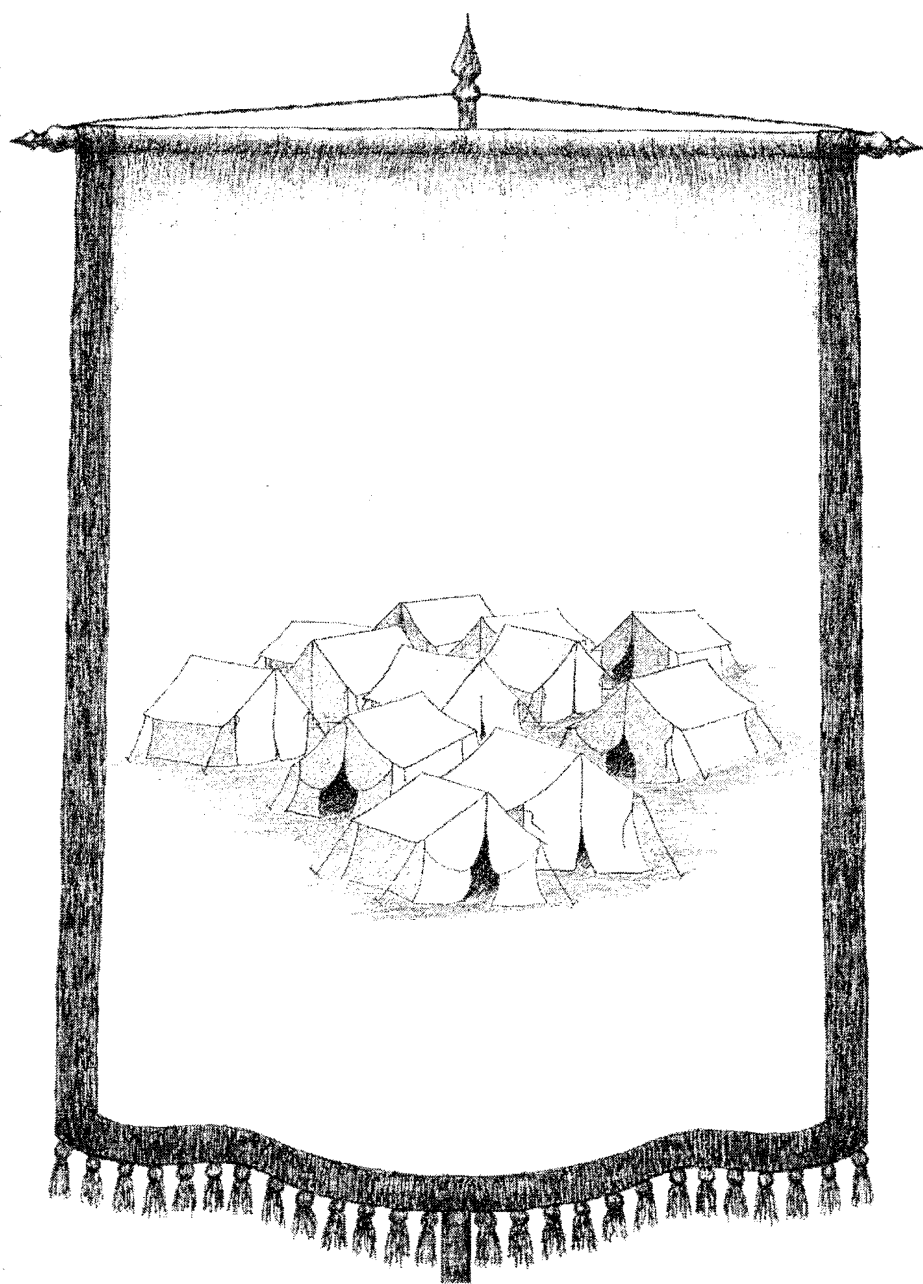
When we look to this federation of END-time Christian Israel, we find but one "ARM" of Christian nations, which is the Scandinavian peninsula. And DENMARK is that country which has *"torn the arm (Scandinavia) with THE CROWN of the head."* GAD, 'a TROOP comes', has showed his military ambition in its historic battles, and has ruled over the lesser. (It's military conquests involved the British Isles, Greenland, Iceland and elsewhere.) Even unto this day the so-called "Royal house of Norway" is none other than the Royal house of DENMARK. For, Denmark placed in Norway one of their own royal princes to reign as King over Norway; and the descendants of the: "hawk"-prince still constitute Norway's royal "House of Haakon." Therein has the "CROWN" of Denmark's "HEAD" truly "torn the ARM"! While during the last great war, Nazi troops occupied Denmark. In the forthcoming struggle, we may look for Denmark to be again "occupied," but this time not without struggle. However, Jacob promised them eventual deliverance.

And Moses spake saying:

"...Let Asher be BLESSED WITH CHILDREN; let him be acceptable to his brethren, and let him dip his foot in oil. Thy shoes shall be iron and brass; and as thy days, so shall thy strength be."

Deuteronomy 33:24,25

Now the only remaining Christian country which has been *"blessed with children"* and fully *"acceptable to – the balance of – his brethren,"* is none but Holland. Their government and people have been on good terms with, and respected by the balance of these End-time 'Israel' nations. And as to the



GAD

"And Leah said, A troop cometh: and she called his name Gad."

Genesis 30:11

THE BLESSING OF GAD BY JACOB/ISRAEL

"Gad, a troop shall overcome him: but he shall overcome at the last."

Genesis 49:19

THE BLESSING BY MOSES

"And of Gad he said, Blessed be he that enlargeth Gad: he dwelleth as a lion, and teareth the arm with the crown of the head. And he provided the first part for himself, because there, in a portion of the lawgiver, was he seated; and he came with the heads of the people, he executed the justice of the LORD, and his judgments with Israel."

Deuteronomy 33:20-21

THE PEARL OF GREAT PRICE

Dutch being "blessed by children," we know that they are noted for their large families. Their population today equals the combined population of both Sweden and Norway.

Their "shoes of iron and brass" betokens strength and rulership (iron symbolized the Roman empire noted for its strength and rulership), as well as discretion and learning and the arts, (brass depicted the Grecian empire which became an example unto the world in art and learning at that time).

"Dipping his foot in oil" bespeaks the END-time. Observe that from 1915 to 1925 large OIL REFINERIES were constructed in Holland; one is the LARGEST IN EXISTENCE!

We have, then, as the End-time *SPIRIT-BORN* sons of Jacob:

SIMEON AND LEVI = SCATTERED in Israel

JUDAH = Judah's banner hems World Jewry

DAN = REPLACED by Manasseh

(We will study him in a later group.)

JOSEPH = Great Britain

JOSEPH-EPHRAIM = England

JOSEPH-MANASSEH = Scotland and the USA

BENJAMIN = Wales

NAPHTALI = Ireland

ISSACHAR = Finland

ZEBULUN = Norway

REUBEN = Sweden

GAD = Denmark

ASHER = Holland

Closely linked with the Israel people of old, we find two other peoples, namely, the "Gibeonites" (a "*HILL*" *people*); and the descendents of the harlot Rahab. Although separate peoples, they became integrated factors of Israel's national life.

We must understand that ALL these incidents, factors and great events were but TYPES through whom and by which God SPEAKS TO US IN THE LATTER DAYS. Nor shall we in these days find one iota out of place!

The Gibeonites were made SERVANTS unto the congregation of Israel. Naturally, they became ONE WITH ISRAEL in religion. Today we have one HILL-people in the midst of Christendom which have differed from the others. They are the SWISS, and their land has become the playground for the wealthy of other nations because of their beautiful and suitable "HILLS." As we look at their history, we find them outstandingly DIFFERENT. Their ORIGIN dates back to the BANDING TOGETHER OF PROFESSIONAL SOLDIERS, ready to fight anyone's battle for a suitable reward. Therein do we see the SERVICE-phase unto the balance of the congregation. *There* also convened the "League of Nations," and *there* as well is the WORLD-Bank. They are a people used to immense toil, and, seemingly, thrive on it.

Then right in the midst of Spirit-born 'Israel' of the LAST days, MUST live Rahab the harlot. The name means 'wide'. Incidentally, an equivalent term today – in street parlance – is common for a woman of corrupt morals! Nor should it call for great spiritual discernment to spot that nation in the midst of Christendom, whose morality is commonly linked with Rahab's profession. Perhaps there are other nations today which have sunk equally as low or lower, yet France (and its loose morals) has thus been proverbial among the nations!

But yet one great Christian nation in the midst of our great Israelitish CONFEDERACY-IN-SPIRIT is not yet mentioned nor accounted for. For, IF God has spoken to us "by similitude and the prophets" (as well as THE Prophet-NATION [see *Hos. 12:10*]), then a nation as great and as important as Germany must surely have been foreshadowed. And so she was!

Come back with me to the days of Jacob in Padan-aram, and those following, until he went "down into Egypt." And

there we shall see an event of the utmost importance, yet which is usually glossed over as of no consequence!

By **Genesis 30:21**, we see where Leah mothered a daughter unto Jacob, naming her Dinah. The name means '*judged*' or '*acquitted*'. Later, when Jacob was sojourning in Canaan, Shechem the son of Hamor took her (without Jacob's permission) to be his wife. This so enraged her full blood brothers – Simeon and Levi – that at the opportune moment they slew and destroyed the house of Shechem, and took their sister back home. But over the conduct of his sons, Jacob was immensely grieved – and rightly so! For, there was a factor there involved which has never been brought to light. (Yet now THE DAY BREAKS! Blessed is His name....) The reader not too familiar with the tragedy in Dinah's life may look it up in **Genesis 33:18-20; 34:1-29**.

Years later, **Genesis 46** details the number of Jacob's progeny, being "66 souls which came *WITH* Jacob into Egypt" (*verse 26*). The "count" as previously detailed tallies to 66, with the difference that *verse 15* specifies "thirty and three" as having come through Leah, while a careful count of the names shows only 31! But Dinah *is mentioned*, which raises the count to 32. Whence the 33rd?

It is readily understood when we look both back and forward to Jacob's great wrath towards Simeon and Levi for slaying Shechem – *the father of Dinah's son!*

In that way and THAT WAY ONLY can we make the count of *verses 15* and *26* correct! And it also explains Jacob's great indignation against Simeon and Levi, because they had made one of his sons *fatherless!*

But Dinah's son, being that of Jacob's DAUGHTER, is not given in the genealogy of descent. Nevertheless, he was the flesh and blood of Jacob, every whit as much so as Ephraim and Manasseh. And later, his descendants would also be a people in the midst of Israel. But to be their number and condition as it may, their *FACTIN TYPE* speaks to us today of

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a highly important people: the German race which ANSWERS – spiritually – to Dinah's son!

As Jacob's SONS bespeak POSITIVE qualities engendered through soul experience, so does a DAUGHTER bespeak the finer and more aesthetic qualities, finding expression through music, art and drama.

Thus we have a people who partake liberally of the *SOUL FORART*, and the deeper, more intense *FEELING* which goes with it. While on the father's side we have portrayed for us *great strength*, patience and industry. For, Shechem means a '*shoulder*', who was the son of a '*he-ass*' (Hamor), hence a nation great in "culture," and patiently given to industry and great toil.

Dinah was bereaved of her husband. The mere fact of the preliminary custom of the day having been precipitously ignored by Shechem, made him none the less her husband. But through the "fierce anger" of Simeon and Levi, she was stricken by widowhood. That the grief of her soul should flow out against her brethren is but natural and easy to understand.

And precisely THAT is what this generation has witnessed in and through the two World Wars where Germany has been the chief culprit, and has wrought such havoc among her "brethren"! In both World Wars has she been against her brethren, with not as much as one of them on her side! Yet the fact of the intimate blood relationship leaves room for HOPE that in the forthcoming struggle she will be on our side, considering her vengeance complete through the last two Wars.

Thus we have added to the group of the End-time, *Spirit-born Israel*:

Germany: as the son of Dinah and Shechem

France: as the Rahab in our midst, and

Switzerland: as the Gibeonites

These – ALL – as the sons and daughters of End-time IS-

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RAEL, shall be united in Spirit-bonds and make battle against the common foe. These facts considered, we see how the 'judgment' of her (Dinah's) name has been wrought out through the last two Wars, while the 'acquittal' part we may look for in the War to come!

Judah also we may expect to be with us as well as against us! Inasmuch as Jewry today is both "Judah" as well as "Jacob" (through members of the other tribes returning to Palestine after the great Captivity), we may look for them to fulfill the DIVIDED vision of Jacob which is shown to us by so many DUALITIES in his life.

— MIKKEL DAHL

Excerpt from *WORLD WAR III*, © 1960 by Mikkell Dahl,
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 CHAPTER 15

 THE ERAS OF THE
 SONS OF JACOB

“When Esau saw that Isaac had blessed Jacob, and sent him away to Padanaram, to take him a wife from thence; and that as he blessed him he gave him a charge, saying, Thou shalt not take a wife of the daughters of Canaan; and that Jacob obeyed his father and his mother, and was gone to Padanaram; and Esau seeing that the daughters of Canaan pleased not Isaac his father; then went Esau unto Ishmael, and took unto the wives which he had Mahalath the daughter of Ishmael Abraham’s son, the sister of Nebajoth, to be his wife.

And Jacob went out from Beersheba, and went toward Haran. And he lighted upon a certain place, and tarried there all night, because the sun was set; and he took of the stones of that place, and put them for his pillows, and lay down in that place to sleep.

And he dreamed, and behold a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven: and behold the angels of God ascending and descending on it. And, behold, the LORD stood above it, and said, I am the LORD God of Abraham thy father, and the God of Isaac: the land whereon thou liest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed; and thy seed shall be as the dust of the earth, and thou shalt spread abroad to the west, and to the east, and to the north, and to the south: and in thee and in thy seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed. And, behold, I am with thee, and will keep thee in all places

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whither thou goest, and will bring thee again into this land; for I will not leave thee, until I have done that which I have spoken to thee of.

And Jacob awaked out of his sleep, and he said, Surely the LORD is in this place; and I knew it not. And he was afraid, and said, How dreadful is this place! this is none other but the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.

And Jacob rose up early in the morning, and took the stone that he had put for his pillows, and set it up for a pillar, and poured oil upon the top of it. And he called the name of that place Bethel: but the name of that city was called Luz at the first. And Jacob vowed a vow, saying, If God will be with me, and will keep me in this way that I go, and will give me bread to eat, and raiment to put on, so that I come again to my father's house in peace; then shall the LORD be my God: and this stone, which I have set for a pillar, shall be God's house: and of all that Thou shalt give me I will surely give the tenth unto Thee."

Genesis 28:6-22

In Jacob's dream, he saw a ladder extending into Heaven, and the angels of God ascending and descending thereon. Also, our Lord Jesus spoke in the days of His flesh, saying:

"...Hereafter ye shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man."

John 1:51

This is that glory to which we look forward and anticipate, when our Lord shall have set up His Kingdom here on earth, having returned to earth with His Heavenly Kingdom which will be stationed in the atmosphere above the earth. And those with open eyes shall see the angels of God, His messengers, ascending to Him from the earth, and descending upon Him from the Throne Room in the Highest Heaven. So we see by the ancient Prophets, the "type" of that which was to come, and to which we are looking forward. I have elsewhere set before readers portions of the Master Pattern.

God has set before us a pattern, a Master Pattern, and everything is harmonized therewith. He will not depart from it. And we can use that Master Pattern for our individual lives, and also trace it in the life of His people and the destiny of the nations. The Master Pattern is revealed through the life of Abram, who became Abraham. Then, it is seen to continue unfolding in the lives of Isaac and Jacob, and the sons of Jacob. Their destiny and experiences, leading to the departure from Egypt under Moses, and the erection of the Mosaic Tabernacle, and Israel's destiny thereafter until they had crossed the Jordan on dry ground, became symbolic of what we are looking forward to: the rapture of those who walk closely with the Lord, hand in hand, as it were, with Christ their Savior. Singleness of vision is required. Singleness of vision in seeing none but our Lord, listening for His Word, walking as if we walk through a mine-field, picking our way, lest we be entrapped by the snares of the enemy, and deceived by the elusive lights of this world, which so many are.

We read in *Genesis 11:31* how God called Abram out of Ur of the Chaldees. God's language is not confined to a single application, even as in modern languages certain words have more than one meaning. In God's symbolic language there is a great variety, or a great many facets of truth. God calling Abraham out of Ur of the Chaldees (which name means 'light', or the 'city of light') was a revealing of the account of God the Father descending to earth. We read of Him in the ancient Scriptures in the verses telling of Melchizedek who was "*without father, without mother, without descent, having neither beginning of days, nor end of life*" (*Heb. 7:3*). I wish to set a question before those who may not accept this. Jacob, after having risen, poured oil on the stone, setting it up for a pillar, and vowed that if God would keep him and return him safely, he would give one tenth unto the Lord (*Gen. 28:20-22*). Who of you can show or set forth the church, the servant of God, or the priest unto whom Jacob could or did give one tenth? Such isn't mentioned, unless you recognize that it was to Melchizedek, the All Highest of the Universe mani-

festing in human form. And although we are not told so in the Scriptures, I state, IF Jacob kept his promise, then it was unto Melchizedek of Whom we read about in the days of Abraham that Jacob gave a tenth. And therefore, we also, as children of God, are to give one tenth of our substance, and that in more ways than one.

God said unto Abram that *"in Isaac shall thy seed be called"* (*Gen. 21:12*). Therefore, we have in Isaac a recapitulation. We are told that Isaac lived by the well of "Lahairoi" (*Gen. 25:11*). Other Scriptures speak of "Beerlahairoi" (*Gen. 16:14*) which means 'the well' ("beer" being the well), and lahairoi, meaning 'the Living One Who sees me'. As already stated, that's where Isaac lived, symbolic of Jesus of Nazareth Who became the Christ of God Who lived by that well of the Living One Who saw Him and constantly beheld Him. Therefore did He say, *"the words that I speak unto you I speak not of Myself: but the Father that dwelleth in Me, He doeth the works"* (*Jn. 14:10*). Constantly and perpetually He was living by that well, the uprising waters which rise up within us when we are attuned to the Living One Who sees us.

I'm now going to set a few numbers before you. They're not too important, but I frequently use numbers to show forth how God manifests His Plan, as indicated by the record of history. It is a simple matter to say, "Oh, I believed before I saw any of these numbers." Peter also walked with His Lord throughout 2 years, maybe closer to 3. And he was confident he believed in his Lord saying, "I am willing to go with you into death!" (*Lk. 22:33*). But when a simple maiden spoke to him, fingering him as one of Jesus' followers, there was no more starch left in his knees; they "buckled," and he denied his Lord. Therefore, every believing Christian needs to be so firmly founded in the reality, in the truth, in the wonder and the glory of Christ the Lord and in His every Word and promise – that we can stand firm when the storm strikes, whether it's the storm that's impending upon the entire world, or if it be the little storms in the individual life that test and try the mettle which is within us. Those tests may try whether

or not we are planted firmly on that impregnable Rock which is Christ our Lord. That is why I set numbers before you. All of us have different talents, gifts and ministries. Others have the gift of elocution or oratory. I have neither of those, but our Gracious Lord does not overlook any of his, even the little ones like myself, that there may be a portion added unto those who yearn for greater measures of His Truth, of His Beauty, of His Might and foresight.

If we add up the years according to the Masoretic chronology, we find that Abram was born 1946 years after Adam's mortality. At the age of 100 he begat Isaac. Isaac at the age of 60 begat Esau and Jacob. Jacob was 147 years of age at his death in Egypt. If you add all of those numbers together, you will find they will add up to 2,253 years. We can give or take a year or two, perhaps a little bit more, because all of these numbers are in round figures. Therefore they could be lacking quite a few months, or over a few months. Thus we should not pinpoint it to that specific total. Yet nevertheless, 2,253 years become the end of an era when Jacob died in Egypt. Now we are in a position to see what the prophetic picture shows, as wrought out by God.

We are told that Abram was 175 years of age at his death. When multiplied by 10, we have 1750 years. That added to the time of Jacob's death in Egypt, totals 4,003 years. According to the common chronology, our Lord was born at the 4,000 year dividing point. In my Pyramid chronology, I place it almost 1 year later. But here we are not arguing about 1 year, one way or the other, nor even 2 or 3 years. We see how God set the pattern before us and how He conformed everything to agree with it. We can use these figures in several different ways. But here I'll just show you one other.

We know that Isaac was born unto Abraham when his father was 100 years of age. According to secular chronology Solomon's Temple was dedicated 1,004 years B.C. Bear in mind that when Solomon's Temple was dedicated, that constituted the first Temple set up by man according to the Proph-

ets and the inspiration granted unto David and Solomon. It was the first Temple in which God manifested. He had manifested time and again previously in tents, but this was the first time He manifested in the beautiful Temple. And the fire of God proceeded from the Holy of Holies and consumed the offerings laid upon the Altar (*II Chron. 7:1*). This symbolized God's manifestation to man. The Temple symbolized the Temple in the heavens of which we read in Scripture (*Rev. 11:19*). Abram was 100 years of age when Isaac was born. That to the next power yeilds 1,000 years. Add the 1,000 years to the years just given you, 1,004 years B.C., and that takes us within a few years of the time that Jesus was born. Although there's a difference of an odd few years, scholars do not know whether the secular chronology with reference to Solomon's Temple being dedicated is absolutely correct. Yet it is close enough for us to see how God has vindicated Himself through the pattern and the events of history.

In course of time Isaac begat Esau and Jacob; **"...In Isaac shall thy seed be called"** (*Gen. 21:12*). We read how Isaac was 40 years of age when he married. Our Lord's manifestation number to man being 100 to 1 brings it up to 4,000; $100 \times 40 = 4,000$. That is symbolized here as the marriage of Christ our Lord unto the people of earth. But Isaac had to wait 20 years before his sons were born (*Gen. 25:26*). 20 (years) times 1,002 takes us into the present era, where we are again looking for the fruit of the Christian dispensation, that is, the spiritual fruit. Isaac lived thereafter, 120 years. It's also recorded that Isaac was 180 years of age at his death (*Gen. 35:28-29*). As already mentioned, he was 60 years of age at the time that his 2 sons were born. So that leaves 120 years that he lived after that. Again, multiply that by 100 and it yields 12,000 years. Now, it's not likely that any of us are looking forward to events 12,000 years into the future, that is, 12,000 years after the end of this century. The end of this century means 7,000 years for the following "work week." Then there's to be a Sabbath after that. That's 8,000 years. The 12,000 then takes us 4,000 years into the 2nd week following the close of

this century. Except for those who enter into immortality at that time, there wouldn't be many of our generation who are going to see the events 4,000 years into the 2nd week.

It is written in Scripture, "*Jacob have I loved, Esau have I hated*" (*Rom. 9:13*; see *Mal. 1:2-3*), I do not believe we should apply that "*hated*" word in its extreme sense. I think if we were to substitute the word 'displeasure' we would come closer to the truth of the facts. Why do we find it thus stated? I have said that Isaac symbolized Jesus the Christ. And still we read in Scripture how Isaac favored Esau (*Gen. 25:28*). Of course he loved Jacob too, but he favored Esau. Why? Because Esau, his firstborn, was a clever hunter. We might assume that there was a lot of wild game in those days. Now, Isaac loved venison, and so because his firstborn son was clever at bringing him venison, while Jacob was a man of the plains, raising grain and vegetables; therefore Isaac favored Esau. In symbolism, that links up with the facts: Esau, who is also known as Edom, was the hairy one and Edom means 'red', linking with the things of this earth. In building a Christian community, founded upon the Church and the expansion of the Church into a Christian community, we must start with the material. The 4 sons of Leah, whose name means 'weariness', symbolizes the material labors, or things of this earth over which we toil and perspire. They are things which weary us. Yet they must come first. Because we are human beings of flesh, none of us can convert any of the spirits in the unseen world. It's human beings we're dealing with. Therefore, the earthly comes first. That is why we are shown that Esau was the firstborn. The things of the flesh come first, and through the flesh the spiritual is brought forth.

In order to understand the Lord's loving of Jacob and being displeased with Esau, we must understand the spiritual perspective. God is a Spirit, therefore that which genders and caters unto the flesh, and evokes and magnifies the things of this earth is displeasing in His sight. But that which genders unto the spiritual and which draws us closer unto Him, is that which He favors. Therefore is it written that He loved

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Jacob and was displeased with Esau.

Since the earthly comes before the spiritual, we should look again at Esau. We are told that at the age of 40, he married Judith who was the daughter of Beeri. Judith means 'the praised one'. And Beeri means 'the man of the well'. I don't think Christians need to exercise their imagination too much to understand the symbology there. He married Judith, 'the praised one', daughter of 'the man of the well'! We should reflect on the commencement of the Christian era, insofar as the Gentile world is concerned. We know that Rome was mistress of the world at that time. In fact, Rome had taken over Jerusalem and Palestine about 64 years to 65 years before our Lord was born. Christianity was later recognized or tolerated in Rome. According to the historical records that took place in 311 A.D., but full recognition came 2 years later. Yet according to other historical records which I have studied, it was not until 322 A.D. that the "marriage" between Rome and Christianity took place. Previous to that time it had been recognized, but not until 322 A.D. did Constantine and the rulers in the seat of power commence to give unto the Christian church a portion of the taxes which previously had been given to the pagan priests. Therefore, we find that in 322 A.D. Rome commenced to support the Christian church. And that is what a man does when he marries: he commences to support or sustain the woman of his choice.

Here I am trying to bring out the fact that from 64 or 65 years before Christ until 322 A.D., takes us forward about 386 years or so, almost 400 years (40×10) – the age of Esau when he took Judith to wife. Judith was the daughter of 'the man of the well' (Beeri). The 'man of the well' was Jesus, as symbolized by Isaac who lived at Beerlahairoi: at the 'well of him of the Living One Who sees me'. Therefore, the age and the marriage of Esau, in one pattern, symbolized Rome accepting and commencing to support the Christian church.

Now, let us look at the record of Jacob's sons, and the

symbolism presented through their lives. We have arrived at the time of 322 A.D. I'm going to trace the highlights of history with reference to the earthly organism of the church, engendering the ultimate spiritual fruit. Therefore we have to consider the sons born unto Jacob, but in this instance we can only trace and measure the eras or the epochs by the sons born unto Leah, the wife who symbolized the earthly one, because the spiritual has no chronology. God is a Spirit, without beginning or without the end of days or without end of time. Therefore, there is no chronology to be seen with reference to the spiritual. In Scripture, there is no chronology about Adam and Eve in the Garden of innocence. They didn't count sunrises or new moons because it meant nothing to them. Only after entering into disobedience, what we term sin, did they become conscious of the earthly. That's where chronology commenced.

So, we are commencing with the 6 sons of Jacob born unto him by Leah, and by her handmaid who bore unto him 2 sons; in other words, 8. We'll allot those 8 sons each an era. In the Great Pyramid of Gizeh we find the basic measure of 206.06, but we needn't be much concerned over the decimal places; therefore, 206 years. So we add the 206 years to 322 A.D. and arrive at 528 A.D. That era comes under Reuben, the first son born unto Jacob by Leah. His name means, 'behold a son' (see *Gen. 29:32*). When the Gentile world accepted Christ, and the mistress of the world at that time espoused Christianity, that was the son, because that was the era that multitudes were entering into and accepting the atoning work concluded on Calvary. Then was there life. When a person's name is written in the Book of Life, he shall have no part in the Lake of Fire. That is life, and that was the commencement or the opening era unto the Gentiles when Christianity spread. During that era we find the establishment of monasticism. Monasteries were built and men dedicated themselves to become monks. Yet that was not all there was to it. The monks at that time were also committed by oath to fight the battles for the Lord. In other words, lands became Christian under the power of the sword, as it were.

I'm not stating that all lands were thus conquered, but I believe that under monasticism much was conquered by the sword. It was during that era that bishops were considered as the "apostolic successors" of the early Apostles, and that they could thereby ordain whomsoever they wanted; and "forgive sins." They were thus presuming to have the power of the early Apostles. That era then continued into/or the opening of the 6th century.

Following that era, we add 206 more years, which would take us up to 734 A.D. That era was symbolically under the character of Simeon whose name means 'hearing'. Then did Christianity grow, as new multitudes heard the "glad tidings of good things." That was the era when many nations raised the flag of Christ, and churches were established in many lands. Christianity often became the state religion of those nations; and, as already stated, multitudes heard the "glad tidings of good things." We too have heard the "glad tidings of good things":

"Come unto Me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you, and learn of Me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls."

Matthew 11:28-30

Those are the "glad tidings of good things" which capture the hearts of multitudes and are still doing so, even though at a slower pace. For, the days are close to hand when again the fires shall be fanned into that which is consuming, and multitudes shall come to the foot of the Cross, having received the "glad tidings of good things."

It was during that era that Pope Gregory the Great (he was called 'the great'), gave a clear outline of the functions of the bishops and cardinals. It was he who drew the blueprint, as it were, for the functions of the church through the papacy. And it was he who declared that the pope or the 'bishop of Rome', as he was referred to at that time, had unlimited power. He could function and exercise the power of

church gained much power and wealth, and through that influence spread throughout many borders. At this time Leah herself "*left bearing*" (*Gen. 29:35*), but "*she took Zilpah her maid, and gave her Jacob to wife. And Zilpah Leah's maid bare Jacob a son*" (*Gen. 30:9-10*).

Zilpah means 'dripping with myrrh' or 'a trickling'. It was not Leah herself that mothered Gad, but her handmaid. In other words, a contribution, as it were. But nevertheless, because it was of Leah, it enters into the chronology. Therefore I have listed it again as the 206, taking us up to the year of 1352. Gad means 'a troop', or 'a troop approaches'. That era was the only era within the Roman Catholic aegis that exhibited a spiritual revival. And there were literally troops of Christian evangelists under the flag of Rome, the Christian church. By the flag of Rome, I mean the papacy. We find in that time such illustrious leaders and reformers as Peter Waldo and Francis of Assisi. Peter Waldo was the disciple of purity of life in that corrupt age. It was not as corrupt as we have it today, but considering the times and what had preceded it, it was a corrupt age. And Peter Waldo was the apostle unto purity of life. He shone as a bright beacon on the horizon unto that degenerate society. He also brought about reform and the consciousness of the need of purity of life; and that people should walk with Christ instead of walking with the world, and thus they should be thinking about the Lord when they went to Mass.

Then, Francis of Assisi became the apostle unto repentance. He lived at the same time as Peter Waldo, so their lives overlapped, as it were. His message echoed John the Baptist's: "Repent, for the kingdom of God is at hand!" (*Matt. 3:2*). According to the birth record given in Scripture, although we're not counting it in the chronology, there were two more sons, Dan and Naphtali, born unto Jacob, but by Rachel's handmaid, Bilhah. That has a spiritual connotation, since Rachel symbolized the spiritual church, or the spiritual organism within the earthly organism. Therefore, we need to consider those two sons born unto Jacob by Bil-

the Christ in all matters, without dispute. That gave rise to the doctrine of the infallibility of the pope.

The 3rd era takes us then from 735 to 940 A.D. This era was symbolically under the aegis of Levi, the 3rd son of Jacob. It was he who became the father of the Levitical priesthood, within which body arose the Aaronite priesthood or the high priesthood. Levi and his descendants became the custodians of the Law. The Law was supposed to be in their mouths and it was they who taught the people, and it was they who laid down the rules and elaborated on the 'thou shalts' and 'thou shalt nots'. Therefore, it is not surprising that close to 150 years during that particular epoch, there was a very pronounced strife or disruption over images in the church. We know by the ancient Law through Moses that images were strictly forbidden (*Lev. 26:1*). And in that epoch answering to Levi, there was virtually a constant fight over images. But the earthly part prevailed, even as in the days of Israel the priesthood lost out, and the people fell into idolatry and sins associated with idolatry. Because of that, the Lord sent in armies to exterminate and to lead ancient Israel into captivity. We see again how the same was duplicated, as it were, in this era under Levi. Images remained in the church, and, in certain churches, remain unto this very day.

Specious arguments were and have been put forth and interpretations given that images are only a symbol, or a "present manifest," in symbolic form, of the Divine. Such argue that it is not to the images they bow the knees but to what they symbolize. The world or earthly won out; Lucifer got the victory, even as in the days of ancient Israel.

We turn briefly to the next epoch which ran from 941 to 1146 under the symbolic aegis of Judah, the 4th son. This was the earthly number. Four is the number of fruitfulness of the earth. It's the earth that brings forth the fruit by which we live, and during that era circumstances were very, very fruitful unto the church. However, the church at that time was grossly materialistic. It was also during that era that the

hah as overlapping and contributing a spiritual influence which permeated the epoch I have just mentioned, that of 1147 to 1352. That is why we see by the record of history how there was a spiritual influx or impetus unto the "higher" and to the purity of life. It is written that only "*the pure in heart shall see God*" (*Matt. 5:8*). And our Lord proclaimed repentance, "for the kingdom of God was at hand" (*Matt. 3:2*). That is also what He sent His disciples to proclaim unto the multitudes. It was the only era of spiritual awakening under the aegis of the Roman Catholic Church.

I am not trying to denigrate it; we should rejoice because of it. It provided great spiritual lessons at that time, and laid the foundation for the Reformation. I would also like to mention the parable of the 10 Virgins, 5 wise and 5 foolish. I will not detail that parable here, but you may request *THE TEN PROPHETIC VIRGINS* booklet from Shepherdsfield Publishers. According to that little booklet, I set forth how the era from 1147 to 1352, and beyond, was the era of the 5 foolish virgins. You might wonder why it symbolized the foolish ones when a spiritual "wave" predominated during that age. They were foolish for the simple reason that they were led to believe that the priesthood had the power to open the 'pearly gates', and give them a clear visa into Heaven. The Lord didn't say they were 5 foolish women, but rather, He said *virgins*. Those 2 apostles and their helpers and successors followed them and preached and encouraged purity of life, repentance from evil, and turning from the error of their ways. All of which was good, but our Lord brought out the fact that unless you have oil in your lamp, then you must be classified as foolish, because you don't have the light necessary to take you to the Lord.

We consider next the following era of 206 years which takes us from 1353 to 1558 A.D. That falls under the symbolism of Asher, which means 'happiness'. Within that era arose Martin Luther, who inaugurated the Reformation. Previous to that time, ceremonialism and the priesthood had reigned supreme. It was Martin Luther, insofar as history is aware,

who discovered in Scripture that salvation was not dependent on works, but primarily on faith! Therefore, liberation came into the consciousness of multitudes during those 200 years. It was therefore an age of 'happiness'. Asher's mother was so happy because of his birth (*Gen. 30:13*), and likewise, multitudes of Christians became happy when they came to understand that salvation wasn't dependent on the notions and temperaments, as it were, of the priesthood. Neither was it dependent on how much money one could offer to a priest in order to be prayed out of Purgatory. And, it wasn't dependent on the number of "masses" and the amount of penance performed in order to find the way to the 'pearly gate' with its door open. But the "glad tidings of good things," was that through faith in the Son of God *there* is the entry portal into the heavenlies! That was the "glad tidings of good things" which brought happiness to multitudes, even to millions.

This was also the age of the Great Schism. At one time there were no less than 3 men who claimed the right to St. Peter's throne. Three rival popes claimed that they each were the rightful pope! I do not believe there are many Catholics today who are aware of the record of history, but the people living then did become aware of it, and that engendered in their minds the realization that there was a lot of fallacy, fakery and propaganda emanating from Rome. That in itself helped to turn many from the papacy unto the Reformers who preached salvation through faith. At the same time, Luther not only inaugurated the Reformation, but he also translated the Bible into the German language.

Somewhat overlapping the work of Luther was Tyndale of Great Britain who translated the Bible into English, and who, for that service unto God, was burned at the stake! Several others were also burned at the stake because they took up the work that Tyndale left off. Souls ascending on the flames to heaven because they served God! Now observe, according to the birth record as given us in *Genesis*, this era was overlapped by a spiritual impulse as denoted by Rachel's Bilhah.

THE PEARL OF GREAT PRICE

That overlapping era ran as late as 1558 and it was before those years that the Reformation was well founded and established. In the year of 1555, what is known as the Peace of Augsburg became realized, and the Protestants were no longer persecuted by the reigning powers. During the same era, there arose the eloquent John Knox. Incidentally, it was a professor of a university in Germany in the year of 1520 who publicly burned a book of the papal decrees.

The next era would run from 1559 to 1764. This was under the corresponding influence of Jacob's son, Issachar, born unto him by Leah, becoming her 5th son. Issachar means 'recompense' or 'wages'. Leah's 5th son links with grace or God's freedom-setting power. This era represented the great momentum or the sweep of the Reformation through all of Europe. Although every country did not become Protestant, yet every country experienced their influence, and most of the countries did become Protestant. We have only to look at the Protestant countries of Western Christendom to see that they are the ones that have pioneered in much of what has been recognized in the world as being "progress." We might question just how good some of those advances or discoveries have been, but it is recognized that Western Christendom, and traditional Protestant countries, were the leaders of the world. When we compare Western Christendom with countries like India, Egypt and China, there is very, very little comparison, at least in the modern world. Some of those, like Japan, forged ahead, but that was because they copied Western Christendom in much of their advances.

Now that was the "recompense," or the wage earned by the Protestant Reformation, and that swept throughout Europe. Indeed, that even takes us to the new land of America wherein the Pilgrim families had landed long previously. This era lasted into 1764. About twelve years later the Declaration of Independence was signed.

The following era would run from 1765 into 1970. I was rather surprised when having made these computations to

see that year 1970. Those familiar with my Great Pyramid calculations will be aware that according to those calculations the projection, or what I have termed the Ascending Beam, broke through the stone, entering the Antechamber, January 7, 1970. Therefore, I was somewhat surprised to see that these 8 eras of the sons of Jacob measured precisely into that year. Now, this epoch falls under Zebulun, who was Leah's 6th son unto Jacob. But there were also 2 other sons by her handmaid, therefore, the 8th son born unto Jacob by Leah and her handmaid. I want to draw your attention to the significance of both of those numbers, 6 and 8. Six is the humanity number; it's the fullness of man. Eight is the number of regeneration. We might go back in thought to the words of our Lord when Peter had asked Him what the reward should be for those who had followed Him throughout the years of His ministry. Our Lord replied,

"Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed Me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of His glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel."

Matthew 19:28

Zebulun means 'dwelling' or 'abiding'; and also involves 'communion' or 'communication'. It is during these last 2 centuries that the evangelical movements blossomed. Since 1900 to 1904 the Pentecostals, or the 'tongues movement', arose and have grown. Since that time there has also arisen one movement after another of the evangelical nature. See, then, how these epochs answer perfectly to the sons born unto Jacob by Leah and her maid.

After that, Leah gave birth to Dinah, the one and only daughter that is recorded (*Gen. 30:21*). The name Dinah means 'judgment', therefore we see that from 1970 to the end of this era, whenever that comes, is the era of God's judgment upon us. I set forth in my Pyramid writings that as we came into the Antechamber which has a granite ceiling above of 3 granite blocks, that is symbolic of the Divine power over-

shadowing. I have claimed, yet I cannot prove it, that that was the date when Christ again left the Heavenly Throne, descending into the earth's stratosphere, that He might watch over His chosen people, which includes Christendom; not only that, but with an eye on the entire world. Judgment is upon us. We have been under judgment ever since, we might say, the opening of the 20th century. But now it is different, now it has become a Divine judgment. Previously we were reaping the fruits of man's errors, blunders, and greed. Now we are under Divine judgment, and I think that we see much evidence thereof when we look around and about us at the things that are taking place in the world. Dinah: judgment!

The greater and more severe judgment will be encountered when the Firstfruits, the Bride of Christ, has been called out. That terminates in what is Scripturally referred to as the "Great Tribulation." Multitudes of Christians will lay down their lives before the end of time allotted this era. And multitudes who do not have to lay down their lives will also suffer persecution and much distress. That is the judgment of God insofar as individuals are concerned; those who have not accepted and have commenced to walk in His footsteps must have the thumbscrews turned down that the pressure may bring them to their senses.

Perhaps I should mention something about those who have expectantly looked for the Firstfruits being taken at a given time but then it didn't take place. As a result, some say in their hearts, "Oh well, the Lord delays His coming. Let us go out into the world and have our fun for a season." What is the result of such an attitude? In *John 15:6*, the Lord references His disciples, and those who believe in Him, as being the branches and He personally being the Vine: "*I am the Vine, ye are the branches*" (vs. 5). But in *verse 6* we read,

"If a man abide not in Me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned."

That is the future of those who decry that the Lord delays His coming, whether they have already decided that at some time

in the past, or at the present moment, or some time in the future, or whether it be tomorrow or next year, assuming the Lord has not commenced His "strange work." As soon as they decide, "I'm going back into the world, I'm going to Jericho and to the beautiful lights there that twinkle and that dazzle and enrapture; I'm going to have my fill of the world – then they are no longer abiding in the Vine, which is Christ the Lord. I'm not declaring they're lost; because *if* they are born-again they have within them the living seed out of the treasury of Jesus Christ (*I Pet. 1:23*). Their names are written in the Book of Life and they shall have no part in the Lake of Fire. But notice that the verse I quoted speaks of "fire." That fire is *in this world*. Those, then, are ejected into the power of the Enemy!

The branches wither, our Lord said. That is, the fire that lived within them previously, dies down to almost a dead ember. That is their misery; they get lukewarm and they join with associates in the world, who are *of* the world and *for* the Devil. In doing so, they become cast into the fire here on earth, which becomes the burning and cleansing experiences, that is, the experiences that ultimately bring them to remorse, and they have their lot with the unbelievers (*Lk. 12:46*).

The Lord said in another place that the servant who decided the Lord had delayed his coming and who went out to eat and to drink and be drunk with the drunken, that upon that servant would the Lord come in an hour that he was not aware of, and he would cut him in sunder (*Lk. 12:46*). Actually, the original means 'cut in two', and that servant was appointed his portion with the hypocrites. Those are the Scriptures which "dovetail" the passage we are now considering.

So, if there should be any so foolish as to think that you can go out into the world and "whoop it up" and "paint the town red," be warned of that destiny which awaits you! There will be a withering and a being picked up by people of the earth – "men gather them"! He didn't say God would gather them! Rather, "men gather them, and cast them into the fire and they are burned!"

Finally, let me draw your attention to the fact that immediately after Dinah was born, Rachel, which means the 'ewe' (the female sheep, which brings forth the lamb, even the Lamb of God), gave birth to Joseph (*Gen. 30:25*). Joseph means 'God shall add another'. In the prophecy, Joseph is spoken of as "the fruitful bough," or the fruitful branch that grows over the wall and extends its fruit [double fruitfulness] (*Gen. 49:22*). There we have the picture of that which is to come. It was a preview of that which we are told of in the *Book of Revelation*, that there is a Firstfruits to be taken out of the earth (*Rev. 14:1-5*), and, if a Firstfruits, that indicates there must be, later on, a Harvest. Though the Firstfruits is only a small portion out of the vast Harvest field of the Lord, God "shall add another." And so in course of another year, or whatever it was, she gave birth to her 2nd son by Jacob. Now these refer to the spiritual organism within the organized, earthly organism. She named him Benoni, the 'son of my sorrow' (*Gen. 35:18*). And that indeed it is, *unto the world!* Rachel died at that time. She was Jacob's wife, and that symbolizes the soul.

Whatever the year may be, it will be on the Festival of Trumpets when the vast Harvest multitude ascends at the call of God, with the sound of the trump of God. And those in Christ shall arise to meet Him, both the living, as well as those who passed on before in the faith. The following 2 weeks will be the greatest hell on earth and bloodbath that man has ever seen, or its history shall ever record. 'The son of my sorrow' symbolized the true sorrow beyond descriptive words by man which shall then engulf those who are remaining. But Jacob disagreed with her, saying, "No - Benjamin, the son of my right hand" (*Gen. 35:18*). The great harvest unto the Lord shall ascend to meet Him. That is the joy that Jacob beheld, the 'son of my right hand', speaking of the spiritual or the power of the right hand. It is that to which we look forward. It is that which we await. May He find you watching, waiting and praying, so that you may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that are coming to pass, and to stand before

the Son of man (*Lk. 21:36*).

That is the message I have for you, that our days are numbered – our time is short. And it behooves you to stand, waiting, watching and praying that you may be accounted worthy to escape the dread things that are coming to pass because man has refused to hear the Word of God and to conform himself to the pleasure of the Lord's Will. Therefore, unto the worldly, the world over, what dreadful trips to the woodshed still remain to be experienced!

It is written in *Hebrews* that, *"It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the Living God"* (*Heb. 10:31*). I can only agree with that in a measure, and disagree with it considerably. *"Let Us make man in Our Own image, and after Our Own likeness"* (*Gen. 1:26*). A parent here on earth has children; and the children who have heard the word of the parent and who love and respect the parent, try to do the will of the parent. They are never afraid of the parent; with great joy they run into the arms of the parent. And that is the picture of the sincere Christian believer. There is no fear, or there shouldn't be any trace of fear in the heart of the sincere Christian believer, because we know the Father loves us. It is those who have rejected the word of the parent, be that the parent on earth or the Parent in Heaven, who are fearful to come into the hands of the parent. May God help you that you have an open ear; and, as you walk with the Lord, to know Him as your parent, your true Heavenly Parent. Then there shall be no fear within you, and you shall not tremble in the day of the Lord, but with great joy and anticipation you will await with outstretched arms and with an open ear to hear, *"Well done, thou good and faithful servant...enter now in to the joy..."* (*Matt. 25:21,23*) *"...prepared for you from the foundation of the world"* (*Matt. 25:34*).

– MIKKEL DAHL

Transcribed from a message delivered
in East San Diego, California, March 5, 1978.



CHAPTER 16

PROPHECY ON THE TEN TRIBES AND Who is the MODERN TRIBE OF DAN?

Daniel was given specific prophecy on the events and opportunities to be presented to the two southern tribes of Israel – Judah and Benjamin (*Dan. 9:24*) – and prophecy also was given him about the northern ten tribes among the nations, but not so specifically.

The ten tribes had been deported and dispersed among the nations during the Assyrian occupation of Palestine, losing their distinctive identity and becoming known as the “lost” ten tribes of Israel. Although these ten tribes cannot be identified with any segment of the human race today, a remnant of each tribe has been preserved down through the years, known only to God. God commanded and He sifted the house of Israel (the ten tribes) among all the nations, like grain is sifted in a sieve, and yet not the least kernel shall fall upon the earth and be lost (*Amos 9:8-9*). The “sieve” has thoroughly mixed the ten tribes among the Gentiles and the members have not retained a separate and distinct identity; they are not known even to themselves.

But because of the promise made to Abraham and his seed, God will yet gather a remnant of each of the tribes out of the

nations and will place those remnants once again in the Promised Land. Since they are known only to God, it will take a special act of providence and revelation to separate and cause them to return to their father's land (*Isa. 65:8-10*). The return will not take place, however, until the land has been purged and made ready (*Ezek. 39:12-25*), for the Lord Jesus Himself will first shake the land by touching His feet on the Mount of Olives (*Zech. 14:4-5*) and will take away the iniquity of the land by the fire of His Presence (*II Thess. 1:6-9*).

It is also true that although the ten tribes cannot be identified with any modern nations or group of nations by lineal descent, yet there is a *spiritual* sense in which certain nations can be properly considered the "Israel of God" in harmony with the transfer of the Kingdom inheritance from the natural to the spiritual seed of Abraham. There is, according to pattern, a spiritual counterpart to the tribes of Israel in evidence among the *Christian* nations of today – for these counterparts would of necessity have to be ones with a Christian heritage and culture, even though greatly defiled.

Because of the special purpose God has for one of these "tribes" of end-time spiritual Israel, a prophetic relationship should be examined. It is written that:

"Dan shall judge his people (Dan means 'judge') as one of the tribes of Israel, and that Dan shall be a serpent by the way, an adder (or horned snake) in the path, that biteth the horse's heels, so that his rider shall fall backward."

Genesis 49:16-17

It was the son of a woman of Dan, with an Egyptian father, that *blasphemed* the Name of the Lord and had to be stoned after the children of Israel had departed out of the land of Egypt (*Lev. 24:10-16,23*). It was the tribe of Dan that marched *north* and took territory not assigned to it. And it was the children of Dan who *apostatized*, set up Micah's graven image and took his Levite, who had turned to idols, as their tribal priest (*Jdg. 17:12-13, 18:1-31*). It was on the *north* that the standard of the tribe of Dan was erected when the Israel-

ites camped in the wilderness (*Num. 2:25*). And it is from the north that God has decreed judgment to come upon the tribes of both natural and spiritual Israel (*Jer. 4:6-9, Ezek. 38:14-16, Joel 2:20*).

In the sealing of the tribes prophetically pictured in *Revelation 7:5-8*, the tribe of Dan is omitted, and *Revelation 13:1* pictures the beast out of the sea of human emotions as having the name of blasphemy upon its heads. This corresponds to the type mentioned in the *Leviticus 24:10-23* passage, where a man of Dan blasphemed the Name of the Lord.

In its modern spiritual counterpart, the tribe of Dan is represented by a nation which is anti-God, has apostatized from Christianity and has taken upon its head the name of blasphemy. It must be a nation which has repudiated the Lord God and cursed the Name of Jesus Christ, occupies territory in the north, and is capable of bringing judgment by military action against the other nations. Only one nation satisfies the conditions. That nation, which was the seat of the sea-beast of Communism, which is positioned in the uttermost north, which is the serpent in the path (Satanic control) and which will bring the other "tribes" or nations of Christendom under judgment of war, is Russia. It can be none other.

Russia is a portion of the extended Holy Roman Empire, through the Greek Orthodox Church. Russia apostatized and accumulated the strength to bring the judgment of war on all of Christendom. In the description of the descent of the forces of Gog upon end-time Israel, it is written that they fell upon the *mountains* of Israel (*Ezek. 39:2,4*). In Scripture, a mountain is symbolic of a kingdom or nation. Thus it is pictured symbolically and prophetically that the end-time Israel is more than one tiny nation in the land of Palestine. End-time Israel is also a group of mountains, Christian nations of *spiritual* Israel, which shall feel the wrath of the beast system under the leadership of Russia-Dan when the final staging of the end-time drama takes place.

Why do I state there is only one nation which can possibly fulfill the prophecy of the beast nation of the end of our age? Couldn't one of several other nations develop its power into world rule as the years roll by? Why couldn't one of the Popes be that anti-Christ? How do we know the U.S.A. will not become that dreadful and terrible beast? The answers are not too hard, if we use the whole of the Bible – and think.

From the words of Jesus, we know that all things must be fulfilled *before* the generation passes away which is alive at the time of Israel's budding into national existence again. It is now 50+ years since the budding in May, 1948-1949. It then has to follow that the beast power under consideration *must* already be almost strong enough to act out its prophetic role of world domination. Weaker nations just don't have the time to develop, even if they had the resources. It has to be a nation *now* almost strong enough and *now* with enough military reserves.

It should be rather obvious to the thinking mind that the world power of this anti-Christ must be a well-organized and well-equipped military power. No ecclesiastic body could possibly fulfill the many prophecies which speak of raw military force such as the beast power will employ in *making* peoples captive. (Even though Russia, after the break-up of the Soviet Union, *appears* weakened and bereaved of her whelps [*Hos. 13:8*], she is still capable of launching nuclear war, and of quickly turning around from her present course. The Russian populace is restless, and many long for the days of the former Communist Soviet Empire.)

In the area of military resources alone, we could place only two nations of the world even in the potential position of being able to subdue the world. Russia is one and the other is the U.S.A., which built Russia to where she is and will yet pay dearly for that disobedience to God (*Ps. 120:2-6*). Both Russia and the U.S.A. individually control far more than enough weapons necessary to eliminate all life from the face of the earth. Both have the means to deliver these weapons

on target; however, the U.S.A. does not now fulfill the other prophetic descriptions. Although the U.S.A. is not very serious about its stand in pure Christianity, it still seems unlikely that the U.S.A. will change its people to directly repudiate God within only the few years remaining within this generation. (Yet efforts have been fairly successful to remove Jesus Christ from the public marketplace of ideas, etc.)

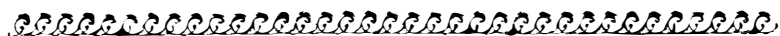
More importantly, the U.S.A. does not occupy a geographic position in the uttermost north from Palestine. Nor has the U.S.A. had its religious derivation directly from either side of the Holy Roman Empire. The U.S.A. has never had a State religion; its religious background is from many groups of different persuasion. With all the prophecies taken together, Russia is the most probable fulfillment of the dreadful beast which rises out of the sea of human lust for self-fulfillment.

Here again we see that God's Word cannot be confined to a single fulfillment or application. His Word is rich and many-sided, having many facets of truth, all conformed to the one basic pattern of truth which has been dramatized through the history and institutions of the seed of Abraham, and based on the immutable oath God made when declaring His purposes to Abraham. God will teach by His Spirit, so we need not listen to the carnal reasonings of those who have eaten the tare seed of the enemy (*Matt. 13:25*).

This is the day in which God will bring all things to light, and in which no thing shall remain hidden (*Mk. 4:22*) – to those who are searching and asking and listening.

– GORDON WOLCOTT

Excerpt from: *THE LORD'S DAY: PROPHECY FOR A NEW ERA*
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CHARTS AND ILLUSTRATIONS



(See pages 34,35 for ***Spiritual Israel*** Chart)

This chart is separated only for clarity. There is to be but one Church of Christ (***Ezek. 37:16-19, Col. 3:11***).

PHYSICAL ISRAEL

Leftside True Church
of Jesus Christ in the
Jewish Nation

ministry of preparation

Leftside Olive Branch, Lazarus, the type
of Caleb, who lived through the wilder-
ness of testing.

The leftside "Moses" leader of the Jew-
ish Church in the wilderness.

The Second Witness of ***Revelation 11:6***.

Leftside Lampstand Group. The specially
equipped and sealed Jewish 144,000 of ***Rev-
elation 7:4***, made up of 60-fold overcom-
ers.

The second Loaf of ***Leviticus 23:17***, waved
before the Lord.

Leftside "Boaz" - cheerful, lively, contented.

ministry

Leftside woman
in the "wilder-
ness," within the
Jewish nation.

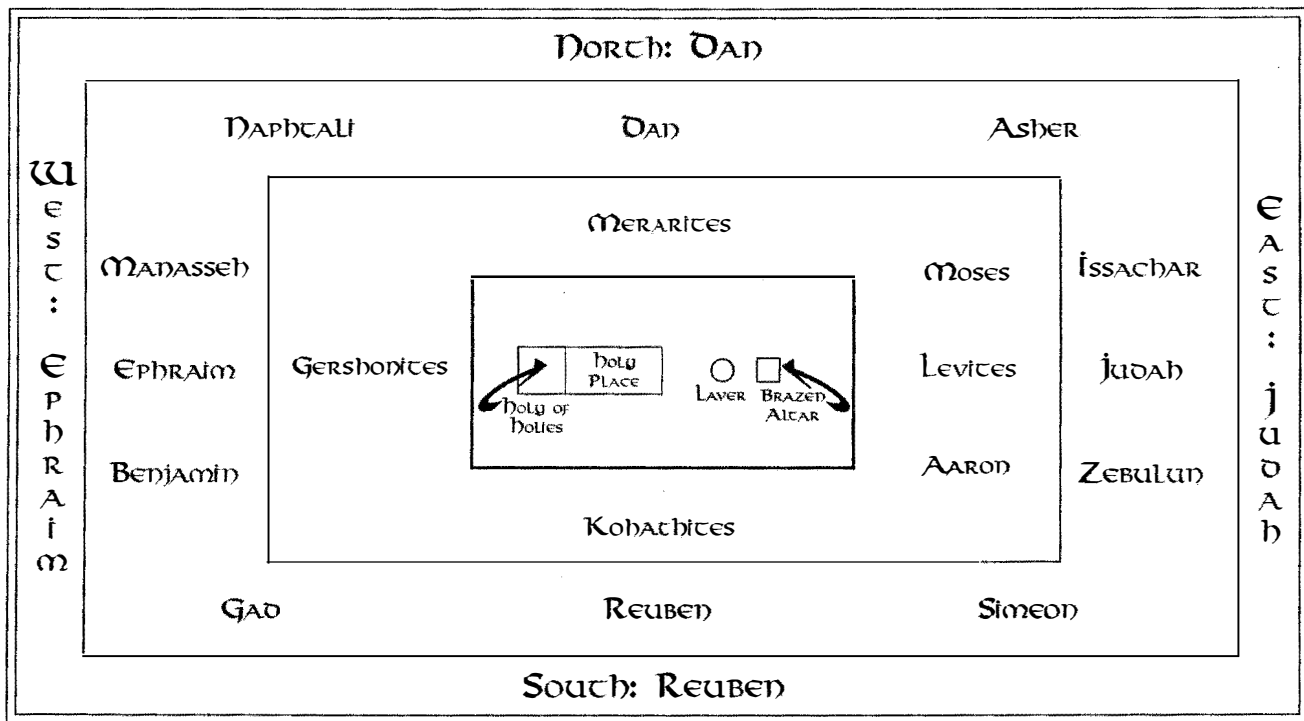
The constantly enlarging faithful Church of Christ among the Jews.
The ***Isaiah 30:26*** moon group, become as the sun.

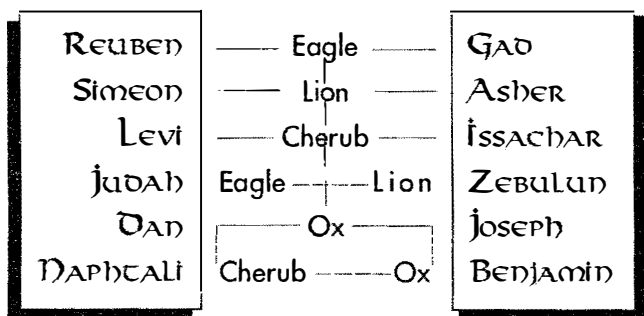
Preserved to become the primary means of gathering the Jews to
Christ's earthly government in earthly Jerusalem.

Prepared Jewish Christians become part of the "Elisha" group, still
earth-bound, during the Millennium and the following cycle.

GREAT TRIBULATION
EARTHLY KINGDOM

ENCAMPMENT AROUND THE MOSAIC TABERNACLE





SHOULDER ONYX STONES OF THE HIGH PRIEST
ARRANGED IN BIRTH ORDER

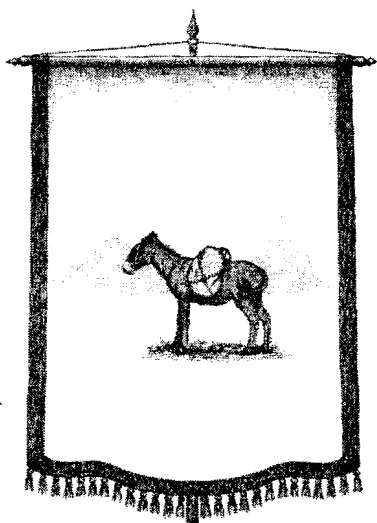
Reuben <i>SARDIUS</i> DEEP RED	Simeon <i>TOPAZ</i> GOLDEN YELLOW	Levi <i>CARBUUNCLE</i> SCARLET
Benjamin <i>EMERALD</i> DEEP GREEN	Judah <i>SAPPHIRE</i> BLUE	Zebulun <i>DIAMOND</i> CLEAR
Issachar <i>LIGURE</i> CINNAMON	Dan <i>AGATE</i> TRANSLUCENT	Gad <i>AMETHYST</i> PURPLE
Asher <i>BERYL</i> BLUE-GREEN	Naphtali <i>ONYX</i> CAMEO	Joseph <i>JASPER</i> OPAQUE

BREASTPLATE OF HIGH PRIEST ARRANGED
IN ORDER OF JACOB'S BLESSINGS.

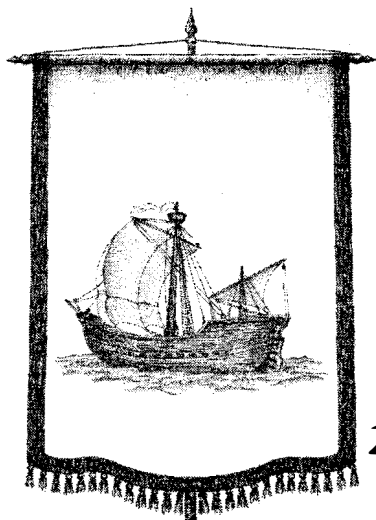
ENCAMPMENT AND MARCHING ORDER OF TRIBES



JUDAH



ISSACHAR



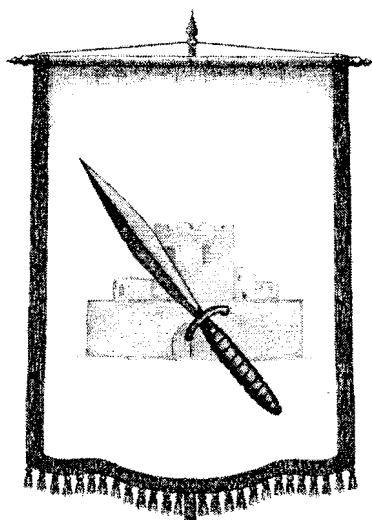
ZEBULUN

EAST SIDE: NUMBERS 2:3-9

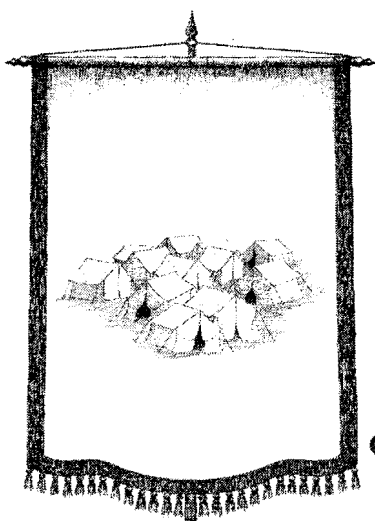
ENCAMPMENT AND MARCHING ORDER OF TRIBES



REUBEN



SIMEON



GAD

South Side: NUMBERS 2:10-17

ENCAMPMENT AND MARCHING ORDER OF TRIBES



Ephraim



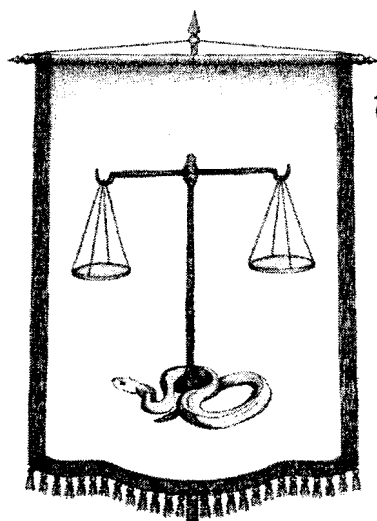
Manasseh



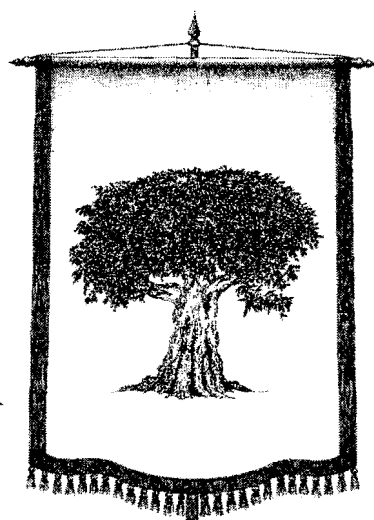
Benjamin

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